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Inter-Arab Affairs

Iraq's Khadduri Speaks at IPU Conference

JN1210093895 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ghanim 'Aziz Khadduri, deputy speaker of [Iraq's] National Assembly, said that Iraq is suffering from the ugliest crime in modern history represented by the genocide against the Iraqi people through the insistence of the United States and its allies to continue the economic embargo on Iraq.

Khadduri, who is heading the Iraqi parliamentary delegation to the meetings of the Inter-Parliamentary Union [IPU] in Bucharest, said that the unfair embargo totally hampers development plans and programs in Iraq. This contradicts the objectives of the Copenhagen development conference, which was held last March. Hence, this embargo, which has been imposed for more than five years, has become a weapon to annihilate the Iraqi people, something which contradicts all humanitarian and international norms and values.

It is noteworthy that the Iraqi delegation to the Bucharest conference held many meetings with participating parliamentary delegations. These meetings focused on the issue of Arab and foreign parliamentarians' attendance of the popular referendum on the post of president of the Republic of Iraq. Moreover, the meetings focused on continuing efforts to lift the unfair embargo on the Iraqi people.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-NUR 4 Oct

NC1310051695

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 4 October edition of the Arabic language newspaper AL-NUR that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Brotherhood's 'Power Quest' Seen as Violation of Islam
2. 'Fierce Clashes' in University, Students Arrested
3. Writer Views 'Enemies of Islam'
4. Report Examines State of Muslims

BROTHERHOOD'S 'POWER QUEST' SEEN AS VIOLATION OF ISLAM

Chairman of the Board al-Hamzah Di'bis, in a 4,000-word article on pages 1, 3, and 5, cites Koranic verses and prophetic sayings to show that "the Muslim Brothers committed a fatal mistake... and disobeyed God's messenger" when they sought power.

The writer begins by stating that "Islam forbids man to wish to become a ruler," adding: "If the matter goes beyond wishing to seek power, it is absolutely evident that the man seeking power is unfit for it and that he lacks one of its basic prerequisites. What then can we say about those who fight for power?" he asks, adding that "those who seek power....are plainly violating Islam."

This explained, he says: The Muslim Brothers, MB, "not only sought power through words, they set about imitating politicians in the East and West by using violence in the communist fashion and setting up a political party and affiliating it with Islam. However, Islam is innocent of this because it rejects segregation and destruction."

Di'bis adds: "The Muslim Brothers asked for and set their minds on taking power in many countries under the claim that they would rule by the word of God once they get there." He explains that this is "one of the ways the devil gets into the hearts of the faithful." He adds that it indicates "a deviation in approach that requires immediate rectification."

The writer cites the Prophetic saying that shows a Muslim ruler will stand on "a bridge suspended over hell" on doomsday to be asked whether he complied with the teachings of the Almighty. Whoever complies will be rescued and whoever does not will be brought to account. He maintains here that the Muslim Brothers "concealed these facts from Muslim youth, men, and old men and excelled at preoccupying them with duties they are not obliged to perform."

Stating that the Muslim Brothers "violated these teachings" when they pursued approaches like "revolting against the ruler or setting up an Islamic political party," he maintains that this presented Islam as "the enemy" of modern civilization. He remarks: "They could have gained much more if they invited Americans and Europeans to join Islam."

Di'bis notes that the Muslim Brothers "helped Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir reach power," expecting "a share" of this power, but were disappointed.

'FIERCE CLASHES' IN UNIVERSITY, STUDENTS ARRESTED

An unattributed 120-word report on page 1 says that al-Zaqaziq and al-Mansurah universities "had fierce clashes on their campuses between university security guards and the Islamic Group students last week."

According to the report, the "students of the Islamic stream issued AL-SAHWAH magazine and distributed it among freshmen on the first day of the school year." The report says the guards searched for them and arrested 37 students. It adds that 36 students of the "Islamic stream" were caught with leaflets and were later released for "lack of evidence."

WRITER VIEWS 'ENEMIES OF ISLAM'

A 1,500-word article by Muhammad Hassanayn on the "View and Counterview" page, page 6, makes "a list" of Islam's enemies and categorizes them. The two categories consist of "people outside the Islamic circle, such as the godless and communists" and "people who pretend to be from within the Islamic circle and are certainly more dangerous."

Elaborating on the first "section," the writer says that the communists "inherited" the thoughts of "al-Dahriyun"—materialistic atheists. Giving examples, he names "the Russian astronaut," the followers of "the wicked Jew, Karl Marx...., the Jew, Sigmund Freud..., Lenin" and others. He tells how the communists spread their "materialistic" ideas and "corrupted the earth." He then talks about "degenerate conduct...and whatever gives the reins to the sexual instinct" as another enemy. He states that those who "spread degeneration and atheism" in the world are "Zionist Jews."

REPORT EXAMINES STATE OF MUSLIMS

An unattributed 1,200-word report on the "Culture and Arts Window" page, page 7, reviews Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali's book "The Nation in a Year."

Published by the "Civilization Studies Center," the book starts with "a report" in which al-Ghazali examines the political and economic situation in the Islamic world over the past year. Noting that Muslims represent a fifth of the world's population, he wonders if they contribute a fifth of the world's agricultural output or trade and industry. He admits that the Muslims' contribution is far below that and asks whether this indicates "a malfunction in our talents or a paralysis of our powers." He attributes this to the "economic and social sins" the Muslims committed and are being punished for.

Al-Ghazali notices a "severe fanaticism" against Islam in a world that sees Israel as "the only child the United Nations adopted" and "decorates" whoever attacks the Koran.

In the book, al-Ghazali expresses surprise that "the powers hostile to Islam unbashfully voice their annoyance with it. In addition, Islam's contemporary activity is accused of being and viewed as dangerous to Europe and America." He is even "more surprised" that the "enemies of Islam" are uniting and joining forces, at a time when Muslim leaders are "somewhere else."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Boycotts Pre-Summit Talks in Washington

TA1210154395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinians have decided to boycott the meeting of the supreme steering committee which is due to convene in Washington today to prepare the Amman economic conference. The Palestinians decide not to participate in the meetings although their representative has already arrived in Washington.

Palestinian Authority [PA] sources told our correspondent that 'Arafat decided to boycott the deliberations to protest Israel's nonimplementation of the second part of the Oslo accord, as well as the imposition of the closure on the Gaza Strip and the general atmosphere in the peace process. It was reported in Washington that the Palestinians have announced they are considering canceling their participation in the Amman economic conference.

Our correspondent Hayim Zissowitz reports that Economy and Planning Minister Yosi Beilin, who participated in the steering committee's meeting, said he supports legislation by Congress to move the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem. He expressed regret that such an important issue has become a part of the struggle between Republicans and Democrats.

[A similar report on Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 12 October adds that "In a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat today expressed fury over what he called Israel's violation of the agreement with the Palestinians. At this time, a discussion on the implementation of the agreement is now under way at the Prime Minister's Bureau with the participation of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, the chief of staff, and the head of the Shin Bet." The report goes on to note that "the prevailing atmosphere at the Prime Minister's Bureau is that despite today's letter and the resultant crisis, the process will continue and Janin will be turned over to the Palestinians as planned on 16 November."]

Kanafani on 'Hesitation' on Amman Economic Summit

JN1210201795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Oct 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Marwan Kanafani, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman, has said President 'Arafat has noted positive signs in the new position of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement on the issues of joining the National Authority [NA], democracy, and the economic program.

At a news conference this afternoon at the Presidency in Gaza, Kanafani added a meeting will be held soon between the Hamas mediation delegation, which returned to Gaza yesterday, and a delegation from the NA. Kanafani asserted that Hamas will sign an agreement with a political movement. [passage omitted] Asked about the NA's hesitation to participate in the forthcoming Amman economic conference which will convene later this month, Kanafani said: This position must not be understood as a position against any certain party, particularly fraternal Jordan. Kanafani wondered: What is the use of participating in the economic conference when Israel is exercising economic harassment against the Palestinian people and violating all the agreements, particularly those related to the release of prisoners and the redeployment. [passage omitted]

'Arafat, King Husayn Discuss Israeli Delays

JN1210103395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat and his brother King Husayn of Jordan had a telephone conversation last night. They evaluated the peace process in light of the Taba agreement and the Israeli procrastination in its implementation.

President Yasir 'Arafat earlier received Ziyad al-Majali, Jordan's representative to the National Authority, and asked him to convey an oral message to King Husayn dealing with the peace process and the distinguished Palestinian-Jordanian relations.

'Arafat Sends 'Angry Letter' to Rabin

TA1210135495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat has sent an angry letter to the Prime Minister's Bureau, complaining that Israel is violating the agreement mainly on the release of women prisoners and the timetable for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from Judaea and Samaria. 'Arafat complained about Israeli violations of the agreement to the United States as well as Egypt.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that this afternoon, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin will hold a consultation on the implementation of the agreement. The meeting will be attended by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, Police Minister Moshe Shahal, and the heads of the defense establishment.

Minister: Release of Prisoners 'Act of Deception'

JN1310105395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0600 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Furayh Abu-Middayn, justice minister in the Palestinian Authority, stressed the importance of releasing Palestinian male and female prisoners as was agreed upon in Taba between the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli Government. Abu-Middayn said Israeli generals do not want peace and are now fighting as they did in previous battles to obstruct the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement. He also said the Israeli generals are acting according to their own judgment and not according to the provisions of the agreement.

Abu-Middayn added that the release of a batch of Palestinian detainees was an act of deception and not a release of prisoners, because most of those released would have completed their prison terms anyway within a few weeks or months.

The Palestinian Authority Council of Ministers will discuss the Israeli violations of the Taba agreement in its official session, tomorrow, 14 October.

Refusal To Free Inmates 'Bodes Ill' for Accord

JN1210154795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, minister of local government and head of the central elections committee, considers the Israeli military authorities' decision not to release some Palestinian female prisoners as one that bodes ill. Dr. 'Urayqat said the Israeli rejection is an obstacle to implementing the Palestinian-Israeli agreement, noting that there is no justification for keeping some female prisoners in jail. 'Urayqat added that the agreement specifically provides for the release of all female prisoners in the first batch of prisoners to be released.

Civil Adminstration Closes PA Offices in Hebron

TA1310091295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] By military decree, the Civil Administration has closed the offices of the Palestinian Information and Culture Ministries, and Hebron Muncipality's Education Department in the Old City. The renovation work being conducted by the Palestinians at the Department for Higher Education in the area of the Avraham Avinu compound has also been ordered stopped.

Military sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that the offices were closed because their operation constituted a violation of the interim accord which permits the opening of Palestinian offices only in areas under the exclusive control of the Palestinian Authority.

Kanafani: Closures 'Regrettable'

JN1310125695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman, said it is regrettable that the Israeli Government decided to close three offices belonging to the National Authority in the city of Hebron.

Kanafani added that this measure shows Israel does not respect its commitments, which were witnessed by the world. The ink with which these obligations were written has not yet dried, he said.

'Arafat: Hamas Khartoum Meetings 'Constructive'

JN1310124695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 13 Oct 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza; from the "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat performed Friday prayers today at the al-'Umari Mosque in Gaza City. Al- Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Presidency, and several personalities and leaders accompanied the president.

Answering a question from a reporter on the new position of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement and its meetings, President 'Arafat said the recent meetings held by a Hamas delegation with the movement's leadership in Khartoum are positive and constructive and are in the interest of the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nations. President 'Arafat hoped there will be more positive developments.

For its part, the Hamas Movement praised efforts to overcome differences and approximate views to promote national unity and to deny the enemies any chance to harm unity. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Sees 'Positive Signs' in Hamas Stance

JN1210153295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1213 GMT 12 Oct 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun in Gaza; from the "Today's Events" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Marwan Kanafani, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat's adviser and official spokesman, has said President 'Arafat has noted positive signs in the new position of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance] Movement on the issues of joining the National Authority [NA], democracy, and the economic program.

In a news conference at the Presidency in Gaza this afternoon, Kanafani added that a meeting will be held soon between the Hamas mediation delegation, which returned to Gaza yesterday, and a delegation from the NA.

Kanafani asserted that Hamas will sign an agreement with a certain political movement. He said President 'Arafat sent messages to the heads of states who witnessed the signing of the recent Palestinian-Israeli agreement in Washington in order to explain the Palestinian position and urge them to intervene to implement the agreement, particularly releasing Palestinian male and female prisoners and implementing the redeployment.

Kanafani criticized the continued Israeli military siege of the Gaza Strip and called for lifting it. He said the continuation of this siege will harm the peace process. He also pointed out that the military siege and the settlement activity will make the peace process look like a farce if the agreement is not honored.

He emphasized that the NA will do its best to end the Israeli policy of continued closure, especially since this policy adversely affects the daily political, economic, and psychological life of the Palestinian people. He also discussed the delay in Israeli redeployment and in releasing the Palestinian female and male prisoners.

Kanafani added that the increasing settlement activity totally violates the agreement and distorts the image of the peace partnership between both sides.

Daily Reports Hamas To 'Temporarily' Halt Attacks

TA1210172395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH, published in the territories and considered the mouthpiece of the Palestinian Authority [PA], has said that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has offered to temporarily halt attacks against Israel from the Gaza Strip and the autonomy. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the proposal appears in the draft of the PA's agreement with Hamas, but that there is still no final agreement. The PA says it is demanding that Hamas totally cease attacks so as not to spoil the interim accord.

Hamas Hopes 'Peaceful Methods' Will Reach Goals

TA1310092295 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 13 Oct 95

[Report on interview with Hamas leader Mahmud al-Zahhar by anchorman Itay Engel; place and date not given — italicized passages recorded in English]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Engel] Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the leaders of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] said in an interview with IDF Radio that Hamas has still not decided whether or not it will become a political movement and participate in the elections for the Palestinian Council.

[Al-Zahhar] *We have no objection to participate in any election but now we cannot speak about elections except after knowing what are the details of such election.*

[Engel] We asked al-Zahhar whether Hamas would agree to be part of a government with the Palestinian Authority [PA], and he replied in the affirmative.

[Al-Zahhar] *This actually will depend on the result of the election. So no objection actually to rule everything in the process of reconstruction.* [sentence as heard]

[Engel] We asked al-Zahhar whether Hamas would accept coexistence between a Palestinian entity and an Israeli state alongside it. Al-Zahhar said that, just like the Likud party considers all of Palestine Israeli territory, the Hamas regards all the territory as the state of Palestine.

[Al-Zahhar] *From your side, the Likud party is considering the whole of Palestine the land of Israel. And all the time they are speaking about that. And Hamas is acting at the same attitude. Let us start now about how to organize our relations with the PA.* [sentence as heard]

[Engel] In conclusion, we asked al-Zahhar whether Hamas terrorism would end at some stage?

[Al-Zahhar] *We hope so if we are going to achieve our goals with peaceful methods so everything will be discussed actually.*

Ghawshah: Hamas Stance on Elections Unchanged

JN1210171095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1600 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has called on the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, to participate in the Palestinian elections to be held early next year. 'Arafat said: What is important is that Hamas decides to fully participate in the political process, including the elections.

Meanwhile, Hamas has said it is ready to suspend its Gaza Strip military operations against the occupation for a specific period of time. This offer was published today in AL-HAYAH AL-JADIDAH, which is issued in Ramallah.

Hamas official spokesman Ibrahim Ghawshah has told our radio that Hamas still abides by its stand of not participating in the elections, and in calling on the Palestinian people to boycott these elections.

Let us listen to Ibrahim Ghawshah, who replies to the questions of Nabil Sabbagh.

[Begin recording] [Ghawshah] No change has taken place in the position of Hamas. The movement refuses to participate in the self-rule elections for many reasons. These elections are in implementation of the Oslo agreements, which are incomplete agreements. Only two million Palestinian people will participate, apart from the four million who are abroad. Besides, the Zionist occupation will be the final authority of the council to be elected. For these reasons, the Islamic Resistance Movement still stands by its position of not participating in the self-rule elections and calling on the Palestinian people to boycott these elections, which we believe do not express in a free and fair manner what these people want.

[Sabbagh] This does not mean refusing to participate in local elections?

[Ghawshah] With respect to the local elections, we called on the Palestinian Authority, from the very first day, to conduct fair and free municipal elections. Unfortunately, the Authority appointed the municipalities in Gaza, Nabulus, Hebron, and others, and refused to hold democratic elections. [end recording]

Al-Zahhar: Hamas Establishing Political Party

TA1210155495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leader Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar said the movement has started to establish a political party. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that al-Zahhar's declaration comes in response to 'Arafat's remarks that Hamas has decided to participate in the elections for the autonomy council. Al-Zahhar added that an agreement between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas can be reached within a short time.

Hamas Sources on 'Modus Vivendi' With PA

*LD1310112695 Tehran IRNA in English
0954 GMT 13 Oct 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Athens, Oct. 13, IRNA — The Palestinian Islamist delegation which went to Sudan last week to meet with the Khartoum-based Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] military leaders in an apparent bid to seek consensus for rapprochement with the Palestine authority returned to Gaza Wednesday with reportedly positive results. A report from al-Quds [Jerusalem] Wednesday said the delegates brought with them several suggestions concerning the establishment of fixed and stable relations between Hamas and the PNA [Palestinian National Authority; Palestinian Authority, PA], but no further details were revealed.

The delegation to Sudan included prominent Islamist figures such as Khalid al-Hindi, Sa'id al-Nimruti and 'Abdallah Muhannah along with the Amman-based Hamas spokesman 'Abdallah Ghawshah.

On their return to Gaza, the delegates issued a short statement Wednesday night implying that their mission in Khartoum was successfull. The statement stressed that the initiative to go to Sudan stemmed from the delegates' own concern about the deteriorating state of affairs between the Palestine Authority and the Islamist camp which, the statement said, served only the interests of the enemies of the Palestinian people. The delegates described their meetings in Khartoum, held under the auspices of Sudan's Islamic leader Hasan al-Turabi, as "very encouraging."

Moreover, the Gazan Islamists called on all concerned parties and the Palestinian people at large to back-up the reconciliation efforts between Hamas and the PNA and create a positive atmosphere condusive to achieving national unity.

On Wednesday, Hamas leader in Gaza, Mahmud al-Zahar, disclosed that his movement and the PNA were "closer than ever to reaching an agreement." Al-Zahar, however, stressed that the movement remained and would remain faithful to its Islamic ideology which calls for the establishment of an Islamic state in Palestine sooner or later. He also added that Hamas would never contemplate recognizing the Zionist state which he described as "unthinkable under any circumstances."

Hamas sources in the West Bank intimated that the backbone of the agreement was Hamas' consent to suspend "car-bomb attacks and martyrdom operations" pending the completion of Israeli troop redeployment from West Bank population centres. The same sources added, however, that the agreement which they described as "more or less a ceasefire," could be nullified if and when Israeli provocations occurred. "This is a sort of modus-vivendi between Hamas and the PNA which is designed first and foremost to stabilize relations between the autonomy authority and the Islamist forces," said a Hamas leader in Ramallah. Furthermore, regardless of how one views the impending reconciliation deal between the two erstwhile antagonists (whether it is a landmark agreement or no more than a temporary modus vivendi), PNA officials, for their part, are lauding the agreement with our brothers in Hamas."

PNA chief security officer in Jericho, Col. Jibril al-Rujub, said in a telephone interview Wednesday that he was confident the agreement would open new horizons for the Palestinian people.

"These are (Hamas) nationalist elements, and I don't expect them to carry out actions that are detrimental to Palestinian national interests," he said. Al-Rujub's welcoming remarks coincided with a secret meeting in Gaza Tuesday between PNA intelligence officers and military leaders of Hamas military wing, the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam brigade. The meeting, the first of its kind, was reportedly congenial, and according to Gazan sources the Hamas fighters "promised not to do anything that would disrupt Israeli pull-out from Palestinian population centres in the West Bank."

Security Members Convicted of Violating Orders

*JN1210111795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
0600 GMT 12 Oct 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] A Palestinian preventive security court convicted six members of the preventive security on the charge of violating orders while interrogating a detainee. The court sentenced the six members to imprisonment for a period ranging from 14 to 30 days.

This measure is in line with the Preventive Security Body's policy of keeping investigation practices within the limits of the law and the principles of human rights.

PFLP Leader on Armed Operations, Problems

*NC1310093295 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian
10 Oct 95 p 8*

[Interview with PFLP Secretary General George Habash by unidentified correspondent in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [HAMSHAHRI] Dr. Habash. You are one of the prominent faces of the anticolonialist movement by millions of Arabs, which was led in by 'Abd-al-Nasir, in the fifties and sixties. Do you have any special memories of that era?

[Habash] I remember that in those years we had prepared for armed struggle against Israel and I had met

'Abd-al-Nasir many times and asked him his opinion on the struggle. We had a very simplistic concept of the struggle, but 'Abd-al-Nasir stressed that it would be extensive. He used to say that there is an ocean of financial, political, and ordnance resources of U.S. imperialism backing Israel. Therefore, you should take into account all the aspects of the matter and anticipate that the struggle will be difficult.

Now, I feel that the struggle is far greater even than what we had envisaged 30 to 40 years ago. The issue of Palestine is different from the Algerian problem, even though the victory of the Algerian people against the French is far greater, the situation in the Arab Middle East and the issue of the presence of the Israeli regime is far more complex.

[HAMSHAHRI] I wish to inquire about the coalition which has been formed by 10 Palestinian groups. This is an important step and we hope that this solidarity will continue.

[Habash] This step should be successful because it would mean the success of the democratic process and the Islamic movement.

[HAMSHAHRI] Some of the organizations, particularly Hamas, have embarked on armed operations inside the occupied territories. What is your position on these operations?

[Habash] We are in the third position somewhat remove with regard to such operations. If we wish to speak in a humble and scientific manner I should state that most of the armed operations are carried out by Hamas and next by the Islamic Jihad. The PFLP [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] is in the third position. This is the present situation, but we do not know what the future holds.

I remember a few years ago the chief of Israeli intelligence (Mosad) was interviewed by an Israeli publication regarding the combatant Palestinian organizations. When the interviewer asked him which was the most dangerous Palestinian organization for Israel's security, he replied: The PFLP is the most dangerous one for us.

That was a few years ago. If you ask me this question now, I would give you a different answer and would state that Hamas poses the greatest danger for Israel's security at present.

Bank Performance in Gaza, West Bank Viewed

TA1110192995 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM TIMES in English 6 Oct 95 pp 10, 11

[Report by Dalia Habash]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The economic and financial performance in any country forms the backbone of the country's development. Due to the long years of the Israeli occupation, the banking sector's activities were impeded by military rule, a deliberate ploy by the Israelis to reduce to stagnation the Palestinian economy and minimize work opportunities.

Before the 1967 June War with Israel, Arab banks could be found in Palestine helping to conduct the financial transactions of the Palestinian community in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Immediately after the War, and Israel's seizure and occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, all the banks branches, according to a study published by the Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS), a total of 32, and nine in Jerusalem, had to cease operation under the new Israeli military rule.

Fu'ad Busaysu, Governor of the Palestinian Monetary Authority (PMA), said that due to these Israeli measures, the Palestinian economy suffered from two major problems: a high unemployment rate, and high inflation rates — which latter reached around 14% in 1994.

According to MAS, the first bank to resume operations in the West Bank was the Bank of Palestine, which reopened in 1981 after winning a court battle with Israel. The Cairo-Amman Bank followed and opened its first branch in October 1986, and today has 17 branches all over the West Bank and PNA [Palestinian National Authority] administered areas.

So far, there are 10 banks in the West Bank, Gaza and Jericho, with 41 branches. Most of these banks had branches in these areas, including Jerusalem, before the 1967 war, and resumed operations after the Madrid Conference. "It seems to have taken the banks roughly half a year to do all the preparatory work to open branches, including securing all the necessary approvals from the Jordanian, Israeli and Palestinian authorities to operate," reported MAS's study. The deposits in all of these banks reached about $975 million by the end of May, which at the end of March was $828 million — almost an 18% increase in two months.

This increase, MAS reported, is due to three main causes: "First, an increase in Palestinian money supply, which is due mostly to increased foreign aid; second, transfers of residents' deposits from banks located in other countries; and third, a shift in asset holding from cash in favor of bank deposits."

According to an Israeli law, also applicable in Israeli banks, dealing in foreign currency is forbidden. An Israeli or a Palestinian can open a foreign currency account, say a US Dollar account for example, can deposit in that currency, but cannot withdraw the sum in that currency. The only currency a person can withdraw in these banks is the New Israeli Shekel [NIS]. This law is valid in Arab banks operating in the West Bank, but not in the PNA administered areas.

In Gaza and Jericho, the PMA (Palestinian Monetary Authority) allows the use, including deposit and withdrawal, of any currency, and checkbooks are issued in any currency, be it the US Dollar, the Deutschmark or the Jordanian Dinar. As a result, the citizens of Gaza and Jericho prefer the US Dollar, while those in the West Bank are limited to dealing with the NIS and the Jordanian Dinar.

In banks inside Israel, Jerusalem and the West Bank, foreign currency accounts could be opened to foreigners with residency permits, and the banks allow for the withdrawal in the currency in which the account was opened. Such is the case with the Bank of Jordan, and the rest of the Arab banks operating in the West Bank.

To date, not a single Arab bank has been allowed to open in Jerusalem. The Israeli authorities closed the nine branches in Jerusalem, and have not given any permission for their re-opening.

Fu'ad Jabr, regional manager of the Arab Land Bank, said that the bank re-opened its branches at the end of 1994, and they already have three branches in Nabulus, Gaza and Bethlehem. The opening of two branches each in Khan Yunus and Rafah, and a third in Jericho, are underway.

Under the rule of the Egyptian government, the Arab Land Bank was established in 1947 after the Arab League decided to aid the Palestinians so that they would not have to sell off their lands. The aim was to give them loans for land and building projects. The bank was supposed to open that year, but due to the 1948 war, the bank postponed its opening, and did so only in 1951 with two branches in Jerusalem and Amman.

When asked if the bank would have branches in Jerusalem, Jabr replied that they did hope to have a branch in the city, and that already they had two sites earmarked, one opposite Herod's Gate and the other on Salah al-Din Street. The bank's name may be confusing, since it was mainly a land bank until about 15 years ago, when it became a regular commercial bank. Yet it is still distinguished by conducting the activities of a land bank.

Among the activities of the Bank, Jabr said that the Arab Land Bank has signed an agreement with the PNA to finance the building of the airport in Rafah, in coordination with the Egyptian National (Ahli) Bank. "The total amount will be about $18 million, and we hope that the airport will be completed by the end of February, and we can all see the landing of the first airplane on the runway," Jabr said.

The Bank will also finance the bus companies in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, in coordination with the Dutch. In addition to the financing of these two projects, the Bank also finances loans for individuals, such as car loans. Jabr pointed out, however, that in the housing sector they prefer to give loans to organizations rather than individuals.

The first bank to be licensed and registered under the PNA, the Palestine Investment Bank, opened in March 1995 in Gaza with a total capital of $20 million, raised by the Palestinian businessmen who had come up with the original idea. According to the bank's statement, "the bank will open branches in every free city under PNA rule."

The Bank aims at contributing to the Palestinian national economy, and, in cooperation with the PNA in supporting all kinds of development projects and in creating job opportunities. Among their services, the bank facilitates business loans, in addition to education and tourism. As with all banks located in PNA administered areas, the Palestine Investment Bank deals with all foreign currency acounts. The Bank currently has two branches, one in Jericho, the headquarters in Gaza.

Yet another Palestinian bank which opened, with its first headquarters in Ramallah, is the Commercial Bank of Palestine, which according to the legal advisor in the bank, Jalal Khadr, is a company which was established by Palestinian business investors, intending to invest all their money in the West Bank. "We give loans," Khadr said, "but only to develop industry." So, unlike the Arab Land Bank which gives loans to people who want to purchase vehicles, the Commercial Bank of Palestine refuses to do so. "We are interested in projects which create employment," Khadr explained.

Most of the banks issue the VISA credit card, in both the regular and the gold versions. The only bank in Jordan and in the West Bank which issues the MASTERCARD is the Jordan National Bank. Located in Nabulus, and soon to open in Bethlehem and Ramallah, the Bank's manager 'Abd-al-Latif Nisif is proud to mention that the Bank also offers the unique 24-hour door-to-door speed cash services.

The Arab Bank, with five branches in Gaza, Nabulus, Ramallah, Jericho and Bethlehem, has already opened a sixth branch, and also its second in Gaza. According to Tawfiq Khalil, public relations officer at the bank's headquarters in Amman, the Arab Bank will have about 20 more branches all over the West Bank and Gaza Strip. He said the bank will concentrate on infrastructure and housing development projects.

General Manager of the Palestinian Housing Bank, Mahmud Damo, said that the bank will open at the beginning of next year. He said that the bank will fund the housing sector, related industries and projects. Loans, Damo said, will depend on the policies and internal bank laws in order to fund all kinds of projects whether submitted by individuals, housing organizations, governmental or tourist. Its proposed capital, according to the completed principle regulations, will be about $100 million, and the bank will be inviting individuals and private sector companies to participate in the shares. Damo explained though, that 30% of the capital will come from the PNA.

It is worth mentioning that all the banks working in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have corresponding banks, many of them Israeli. But are these banks in competition with Israeli banks? A study by The Palestine Economic Policy Research Institute (MAS) indicates that Arab banks have the advantage of not being subjected to Bank of Israel regulations, but have the disadvantage of not being able to offer inflation indexed saving accounts or foreign currency denominated accounts, except for Jordanian Dinar accounts. "These two restrictions put Palestinian banks at a disadvantage in competing for NIS accounts of large Palestinian firms and international organizations," MAS wrote.

The next step in the Palestinian economy will be the minting of its own currency. But until that happens, Palestinians in the West Bank and PNA administered areas will depend on the Israeli Shekel, the Jordanian Dinar and the US Dollar in their business and daily transactions. The longer term development of the Palestinian banking system will depend on its being able to free itself completely from Israeli operating restrictions. The Palestinian Monetary Authority will aim to develop a viable fiscal system, and the Paris Economic Agreement will no doubt see amendments allowing for greater banking independence.

Algeria

FIS' Haddam on GIA, Zeroual-Chirac Meeting

LD1110171295 Paris LCI Television in French 1514 GMT 11 Oct 95

[Interview with Anouar Haddam, president of the FIS parliamentary delegation abroad, in Washington, by correspondent Yves Calvi, in Paris, on 11 October; from "Le Talk Show Generaliste" — recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Calvi] [passage omitted] I now turn to Anouar Haddam, who is live from our TF1 studio in Washington. Mr. Haddam, hello. Can you hear me?

[Haddam] Hello. Yes.

[Calvi] We will turn directly, if you do not mind, to your statements this morning in LE FIGARO. I remind you that you are president of the parliamentary delegation of the FIS, the Islamic Salvation Front, abroad. You apparently deny the GIA's claim. What allows you to deny that claim?

[Haddam] Perhaps the question that must be asked is who allowed the press, the press agencies, to link this false communique to the GIA?

[Calvi] Mr. Haddam, for the moment you have the French foreign minister saying there is a very strong probability that leads one to conclude that this claim is serious. What I would like to know is what are your reasons for telling us these communiques do not emanate from the GIA or GIAs?

[Haddam] The Algerian people have no interest in externalizing the war that is going on in Algeria against the ruling power, which has taken the state's institutions hostage. We are against terrorism in all its manifestations, but we are for the people's right to defend their constitutional institutions.

[Calvi] Mr. Haddam, excuse me for interrupting you, but do you yourself have contacts with the members of the GIA that allow you to confirm to us that you can deny this claim?

[Haddam] According to our own sources, they are false communiques. We are categorical on that point.

[Calvi] Yes, but can you argue, or give us more arguments, regarding the fact that you can very clearly deny this claim?

[Haddam] The essential problem is that the Algerian people's just cause is not recognized as such on an international scale, on the international stage. That is why there is nobody with a mandate to speak in the name of the freedom fighters abroad. We speak in the name of the FIS; we have no mandate to speak in the name of the mojahedin. However, it is still the case that — we have been clear since the first day — we are against all acts of terrorism, but we are for the armed struggle, for freeing the state's institutions from their seizure by the generals who were behind the coup d'etat of January 1992.

[Calvi] Mr. Haddam, you have just told us very specifically that you were not there to represent the GIA; nevertheless, in your interview this morning with LE FIGARO, you explain that you respect the choice of what you call the freedom fighters in the case of Djamel Zitouni [GIA member arrested recently in Belgium]. Is that a way of supporting him?

[Haddam] We support the armed struggle.

[Calvi] Of the GIA?

[Haddam] We consider it our people's right to defend its elected institutions. It is our people's right to development. You know, I think it is time to go straight to the heart of the Algerian question. As you know, the Algerian crisis, which after three years ago has taken a serious turn, is essentially political. Economic recovery can only take place within the framework of political stability, which will only be recovered once there is a return to popular legitimacy.

[Calvi] Mr. Haddam, do you approve of the meeting due to take place in the coming days between President Chirac and President Zeroual?

[Haddam] Apart from the fact that it may be used by the Algerian junta's media as a sign of support, of support for the policies of the ruling power in Algeria, we hope Mr. Chirac will express himself clearly regarding the solution proposed by the signatories of the Rome accord.

[Calvi] That is, you hope Mr. Chirac will intervene with President Zeroual in order for the process to be resumed, in a sense, which now seems to have been set to one side and which started at the time of the Rome treaty. Is that it? So, you approve of the meeting?

[Haddam] Indeed, if it goes in that direction, of course. The French Government would have to be clear and have a clear position regarding this national contract of parties representing the Algerian people.

[Calvi] Mr. Anouar Haddam, I did understand your position, but I would like to put another two questions to you before we end this interview. They are of special interest to us, the French. You are speaking on a French TV news channel, and I would like to thank you once again. We wonder in Paris why France is being targeted by terrorists who are strongly suspected of being GIA terrorists. Have you an answer to this question?

[Haddam] That is precisely the problem. The time may have come for people to look seriously into the danger represented by the embassies of the authorities in power in Algeria. The time has come to think seriously about the Algerian crisis. Unfortunately, French governments have so far supported the coup d'etat in Algeria. They have even supported it militarily. It may be time.... [pauses] We are awaiting the change in French policy announced by Chirac when he was a candidate. We would like Algeria to be included. We are ready.... [pauses] As we did in the context of the Rome platform, we will request the right to come and address the French people. Indeed, whether we like it or not, the Algerian issue is not that alien to the French people.

[Calvi] I have a last question to put to you, Mr. Haddam. I would like to know how you reacted to Khaled Kelkal's death and whether you have been kept informed of the situation. In France, he is considered to be one of the presumed instigators of a number — the inquiry is not over — of terrorist incidents or aborted terrorist attacks, which have taken place in our country. What was your reaction to the death of that young man, who was a French national of Algerian origin?

[Haddam] Yes, we would like to take this opportunity to make an appeal to our Algerian community, both immigrants and French nationals of Algerian origin: It is not the strategy of our mojahedin brothers to export war. The best way to help the Algerian people is to set a good example. It is true that the situation of our Algerian community in France is disastrous, but terrorism is not the solution; far from it, and we would like the French judiciary, free from outside pressure, to find out who were the real instigators of the crimes committed in France.

[Calvi] Thank you very much, Anouar Haddam, for speaking to us live in this program. You are the president of the parliamentary delegation of the FIS abroad. You were speaking live from our Washington office. I would also like to thank the TF1 team in Washington and Ulysse Gosset in particular for receiving you at their premises.

FLN, FFS Criticize Chirac-Zeroual Meeting

LD1210164395 Paris LCI Television in French 1500 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] After the warning served yesterday on France by the Islamic Salvation Front, two other Algerian parties today denounced the meeting between [Algerian President] Liamine Zeroual and French President Jacques Chirac. The National Liberation Front [FLN] and the Socialist Forces Front [FFS] deplore the decision by Paris, which, they say, gives support to the Algerian regime's policy of confrontation.

In Algeria, as the presidential election draws nearer, violent attacks are increasing. At least 13 people have been killed in the past few days. [passage omitted]

HAMAS Leader on Elections, Economic Issues

LD1210175995

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 1222 GMT on 12 October carries the first edition of a 38-minute live phone-in program "Figures and Event" hosted by an unidentified correspondent. The program features Mahfoud Nahnah, leader of the Islamic Society Movement, HAMAS, answering questions from the correspondent and numerous callers.

Answering a question on the popularity of the president, Nahnah emphasizes the importance of trust between the people and the ruler, who could be popular if he treated people equally, adding that "the problem in Algeria is that the president or the official still has a village mentality."

Replying to a caller's question on the absence of some of the political parties in the elections, Nahnah says that the candidacy in the elections are open to all citizens except "those who have been the subjects of legal cases against them, as happened with the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front], which was dissolved by law but its members and the people who gave it their votes are still here and they are, first and foremost, Algerian citizens." He goes on to say that other parties who plan to boycott are free to do so, however, they should not force people to boycott the elections because voting is a right and an obligation. He adds: "Our dear country, which has 27 million people, cannot be without an elected president recommended by the people. It is absolutely impossible."

Another question is on HAMAS' program for the youth. Nahnah answers that the problem of unemployment among youth is not a big one and only needs reorganization to absorb the unemployed. He continues that Algeria should exploit its human resources, as it has done with its natural resources, and employ the youth in all sectors to spare them frustration.

Nahnah then replies to a caller's question on President Zeroual's candidacy: "It is true President Zeroual has no political party but he came forward as an Algerian citizen. Maybe some of the pressed officials liked to give some assistance to jazz up the situation. Proceeding from the view that the country has political pluralism, we liked to recommend him and the Algerian people is the one who recommends the men and the programs that deliver it from the situation of instability and chaos."

Answering a caller's question on the importance of the banks, Nahnah says that HAMAS would resolve Algeria's economic problem gradually without severing its ties with international banks. He adds that "banks cannot be cancelled, not today nor tomorrow," citing the example of Saudi Arabia and asserting that institutions and laws should be respected.

Moving on to foreign debts, Nahnah asserts that Algeria should increase exports of oil and gas to repay foreign debts while the money coming from rescheduling foreign debts should go toward a comprehensive development plan to increase the country's productivity, not spent on fruits, sweet, and bicycles as the government did. He adds that domestic investments should also be encouraged and that foreign debt was the result of the one-party system and socialism.

Nahnah goes on to reiterate the need for tolerance and love between the Algerians in his reply to a question on some anti-HAMAS reports in the media. He notes that the role of almsgiving will not replace taxes, adding that "the issue of almsgiving has to be organized in a modern way" so that all needy people will benefit. He also discusses HAMAS' program for women.

In replying to a caller's question on the election campaign, Nahnah says the first stage has finished and HAMAS has collected signatures in 48 provinces, adding that the Constitutional Council will announce, probably today, the names of final candidates who have secured conditions for candidacy. He goes on to complain about the lack of coverage by some news media of HAMAS activities, citing a number of incidents.

Nahnah then lauds HAMAS positions on democracy and the roles of the independent commission in charge of monitoring the election, other institutes, and Arab and African observers. He says the Algerian people have learned their lesson within the last 30 years and the last four years to conduct elections in a democratic way "without rigging or cheating, leaving the Algerian people to have their say."

Nahna concludes by stressing that he will serve Algeria and cooperate with others to "build a new Algeria according to the characteristics of the Algerian people and its identity. The Algerian president should not shock the people with morals or a past that is not in harmony with those of the Algerian people."

FIS European Supporters Issue Newsletter

MS1210091595 Southall THE ENLIGHTENMENT in English 10 Oct 95

[Newsletter "publicizing the Islamic Struggle in Algeria," published by the Islamic Salvation Front "supporters in Europe" — received via Internet; punctuation as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

Can Algeria be faithful to her history?

Praise be to Allah, Many people seem to ignore that the real detonator of the Algerian war of 1954-62 was an obvious electoral fraud held by the colonialist administration in 1948. It was since then, that the majority of the Algerian people lost faith in changing things peacefully. Even those Algerian politicians who were still convinced that parliamentary work through the "deuxieme college", will bring to the people their rights, were changing their minds. Many Algerians were seeing in those elections, the last test of the administration sincerity after the bloodshed of the popular uprising of the 20th of August 1945. The outrageous electoral fraud killed the dream of many and the majority of Algerian politicians became irreversibly convinced that there should be no politics with the one who is blind by arrogance to a point of considering the people's say on their affairs, a mere administrative routine which can with impunity, be tempered with. The creation of the "Secret Organisation" (OS) was decided with the objective of preparing the imminent armed confrontation of November 1954. The Algerian war was in its principles a problem of fairness in a battle between Right and Wrong. Despite the claims of ignorant people who would better read the history of Algeria more careful, the conflict was not that of race or ideology but that of the Algerian people fighting for their self-determination in all of its aspects which define the "personality" of a nation. In each side of the conflict, one finds people of both origins in different proportion of course. If Algeria is embarrassed by decency to talk about the "Harkis", those Algerians who took the "other side" irreversibly, she has no "complex" in mentioning names like Audin, Maillot, Jeanson, France Fanon, Maitre Verges.who helped the Algerian cause much more than many Generals in the actual Junta hierarchy did.

Some Algerians still think that the Mujahedeen should not have taken arms against the Junta because the situation is different today and that those army Generals are Algerians. Don't they know that during the 1954-62 war, some Algerians in the French side were known to be more ferocious against their follow Algerians that the

French from the "metropole"? Some of them were expert in torturing their follow countrymen (wonder if they are back in business!). This double standard in judging identical crimes in terms of who did them is unethical. If Algeria accepts that yesterday armed struggle was legitimate, she has no excuse in doubting about today's. If Algeria has thrown into the "dustbin of History" some of the French army Generals,the torturers, the traitors,..etc, does she have an excuse in treating the Junta Generals, the torturers and the traitors of today differently?

The fear today is not if these forged elections take place, it is rather if the Junta is going to be "well advised" to stop this "cirque" in which case the Algerian people and the opposition has to be more alert in an eventual new Junta plan!

The Mujahedeen against the Junta "money laundering" operation!

The bloody conflict in Algeria has caused the anti-Junta media to concentrate on the military, political and human rights violations, in its analysis and comments of the situation.

It is a natural reaction to put the value of life above anything else. Allah (S.W.T) Says in the Koran: "...If any one kills a person, unless it is for murder or for spreading mischief in the land, it is as if he has killed the entire humanity and if one saves a life it would be as if he saved the life of the whole humanity..."[Surat Al Maida, 5:32]. When fighting is decreed, He Who knows the inner of His creation more than they may know themselves, Says in the Koran: "Fighting is prescribed upon you and you dislike it..." [Surat Al-Baqarah,2:216].

The usurpers of power in Algeria with their expertise in deceiving the international community, managed to convince very influential financial institutions that the economical problems of that country are independent of the political situation and more over solving the first will lead to the stability of the second. According to experts, the economical potential of Algeria is well above the needs of all of its people. Specifying the problem of Algeria as that of people in need of bread only, is a wrong and caricatural approach. The real question to ask is: "what is preventing the Algerian people from working and exploiting all the potentialities?". The more frequent "answer" one gets in the Algerian streets is:"working for whom and for what?".

The perspicacity of FIS leaders such as Abdelkadar Hachini (may Allah hasten his freedom) was reflected in his famous communique which he signed just after the military coup and before his illegal arrest. He alerted the International financial institutions about the danger of entering into negotiations and contracts that would engage the country's future, with people who do not represent the Algerian people by any standard.

The crafty Junta through "hard work in the shadow" that only History will narrate one day, tried to impose to the international community a reading of the situation that will show the regime "seating in the balcony of legitimate governments" facing its opponents in the "balcony of terrorists". Some of this work has indeed brought to the Generals fresh financial cash and the implementing of economical programs imposed by institutions such as the IMF is seen as another opportunity for the Junta to make further money.

Algeria has since Independence not only seen an illegitimate race for power and influence but also its economical complement i,e the race for accumulation of illegitimate wealth without any economical participation what so ever. Well established entrepreneurs were "paralysed" and bankrupted as a new rich class emerged not from the economical sector but from the army high hierarchy and central administration. News from Algeria report that this parasitic phenomena has increase in intensity since the military coup of 1992. Some influential people are indeed in favour of perpetuating the chaotic situation from where they do "find their account". Officers in the Junta army having the rank around that of commander are making fortune in the arm trafficking. Their only "political principle" is how to get rich the quickest possible way. Others are in the assassination business which are of private nature and have nothing to do with the conflict such as problem of inheritance, business competition

The Algerian people in general have always asked for justice to be done concerning these kinds of economical crimes and corruption and politicians always wave the slogan of "we will check the legitimacy of all wealth since 1962". This is an impractical, demagogic and even uneconomical slogan. However talking about economical crimes and illegitimate wealth accumulation since the precise clear cut of 1992 is not, and Justice must be done in that aspect because in this case lives of ten of thousand of people are involved.

This finally lead us to the Junta's process of "illegitimate money laundering" through the IMF requirement of "privatisation".

The Islamists are not against a strong economy through privatisation of non-strategic sectors on the contrary they will go much further in encouraging the spirit of entrepreneurship of the Algerian people. However they oppose categorically that a transfer of the Algerian people collective wealth to private ownership take place without transparency, supervision and control from their true and legitimate representative.

In this context, the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) has issued a communique signed by its western region commander Shaykh Ahmed Benaicha [as published], dated on the 07/09/95 and in which it is implicitly asked for a "halt" of the "privatisation" program under these circumstances.

After having explain to the Algerian people the real ploy behind, saying about the process undertaken: "It holds in it a hidden agenda which guaranty to the Junta, its Generals and pillars which are holding to power through their control over the institution of oppression ,of finance and of economy", the communique ended: "The Islamic Salvation Army take full responsibility in its defence for the interests of the Algerian people. The AIS strongly warns all those who will buy the Algerian people's collective wealth such as industrial, economical, tourist industry complexes and unites as well as public transport...etc".

Indeed, the Junta is becoming a financial "blackhole" that has find a way of "sucking" international loans and leaving the "bill" behind for the Algeria people to pay. The whole oppressive machine is more uneconomical and worst financial burden that the economical infrastructure of Algeria which the regime want to sell for itself.

Algiers/Cairo: a closer cooperation in the secret services domain!

The junta notorious secret police "La S.M" and the Egyptian regime secret services are having a close cooperation in their war against Islamists, a combat which the two regime consider common to their survival. After having giving training and expertism in how to torture and "re-program" Islamists, the Egyptian regime has moved to cooperate with the Junta in the international intelligence arena. They have found it very convenient as each regime belong to a different "geopolitical environment". Under specific conditions, the Junta secret police would find it hard to make a regime from the same "geopolitical environment" do a job for it no matter how friendly the latter, not even the Tunisian regime for example. Algiers and Cairo are following the method of "you scratch my back, I scratch yours"!

Leave your political hostages in peace!

As Maitre Verges said in a Brussels tribunal few weeks ago in an allusion to the Junta "distribution of sentences", yes there are some death sentences that the accused should wear proudly as medallion of honour. Shaykh Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj are back to their honorific place, the military junta jail of Blida. Yes, the Shuyukh will never exchange the impossible living conditions of their small cell for the comfort of Junta collaborators in Club des Pins (where the Junta Nomenklatura is secluded under heavy guards). They will surely find the comfort of the "palace of sold souls", harsher. Even in their cells they were not left alone by those who do not have any decency left. General Zeroual, who has not yet received an answer from the French authority concerning his "begging" to be seen with President Chirac for the electoral campaign, has the intention of using his hostages for the campaign. His two "advisors" General Betchine and General Deradji were sent to the shayukh cell but did come out with nothing not even a handshake. The FIS leaders Abassi Madani and Ali Belhadj maintain their decision: no talk inside a prison and no political initiative is to ever be expected from the prisoners what so ever. So, General Zeroual no need to use the FIS leaders for your selfish electoral campaign play because in their eyes you were always a Junta General and you always be.

News of Jihad and Mujahedeen! — Communique from the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS):

The commander of western regions of the AIS, Shaykh Ahmed Benaicha has issued a communique dated on the 02/09/95, in which he calls upon the Algerian youth who are still in the Junta army. Periodically and as Islam teaches, the enemy troops and particular those who have been "unknowingly" dragged in the rank of the "forces of darkness", are reminded may Allah make them see and join the brothers and become one of them as did before them Khalid Ibn Al Walid [as published] and the son of Abu-Bakre As-Saddik [as published]. After going over the underlined meanings of the declarations made by the Junta valet Mihoubi, Shaykh Ahmed Benaicha told the troops that this is a supplementary proof and that they do not have any excuses left. The communique finishes by telling the soldiers that the AIS is the alternative and asked them to hurry and join the rank of those who defend Islam and the free choice of the Algerian people.

Jihad operations:

"we don't like to " beat around the bush ", we prefer clarity and frankness even if it means to be hanged for what we believe to be a duty and a right. The struggle against the regime of the military junta has become a legitimate and lawful duty as demonstrated previously, in order to "grab" the right of the people to freely choose. " [Shaykh Abu Abdelfatah ali Belhadj in "FASL El KALAM FI MOUAJAHATE DOLM EL HOKAM" ("The conclusive criterion in confronting injustice from the rulers "). page 303. Book written from cell No 09 in the Blida Military jail. 1992]

Ghelizan: A big battle has taken place between the Mujahedeen and the Junta troops. Last week a group of thirty Mujahedeen from the AIS were encircled by the Junta army for three days in a place called "Erramka" between the cities of Ghelizan and Mascara. On the fourth day, reinforcement of Mujahedeen came from another zone. The Mujahedeen gave an important military lesson to the Junta troops. The encirclement was broken. Six Mujahedeen were killed may Allah accept them as Martyrs. The Junta has left more than a hundred of its soldiers dead. The rest of the Mujahedeen came out victorious.

Dahraa: The Mujahedeen arrest 11 Junta armed militia then set them free after taking their weapons. The reason for the clemency was that this militia group was under put under heavy pressure from the Junta.

In the same region and in the locality of Ouled El Haj, 45 Junta soldiers were shot in a battle which details are not available yet.

Tizi Ouzou: A bomb has exploded in the police station of Tizi Ouzou. Many casualties in the Junta ranks were reported.

As-Soumaa: In a roadblock set up by the Mujahedeen, three Junta soldiers were shot.

Belcourt: A Junta policeman was shot and his weapon collected.

Ain Anadja: A Junta soldier and a collaborator were shot and the weapon of the first collected.

Blida: The Mujahedeen have executed a military operation against a group of Junta Red Beret. Three Junta soldiers were shot and others were wounded. Three kalashnikovs, two Makarovs and a transmission equipment were collected.

Boufarik: The Mujahedeen have set up an ambush to a Junta gendarmes patrol. Three Junta gendarmes were shot and the rest managed to escape.

Larbaa: The Mujahedeen have set up an ambush to a convoy of Junta "special forces" using explosives. A vehicle was completely destroyed and a crossfire took place immediately in which three Junta soldiers were shot and more than four wounded. Three Kalashnikovs were collected.

Boudouaou: The Mujahedeen have set up an ambush to a Junta police patrol. Two of the Junta soldiers were shot and a third wounded. a Kalashnikov and a Berretta were collected.

El Harrach: A Junta gendarme was shot and his weapon collected.

Kasr el Boukhari: The Mujahedeen have set up an ambush to a Junta gendarmes patrol. Eight gendarmes were shot and others were wounded. Five Kalashnikovs were collected.

Dellys: Two Junta armed militia ("harkis") were shot. A MAT and a Siminov were collected.

Egypt

Musa Comments on Nonaligned Meeting, Deportees

NC1310110895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1000 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will leave Cairo for Colombia tomorrow morning to chair Egypt's delegation at the 11th summit of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM] in Granada between 18 and 20 October. The summit will be preceded by a preparatory meeting of the foreign ministers on 16 and 17 October and another meeting of senior officials on 14 and 15 October.

Musa said today that Egypt is interested in maintaining the movement and that consultations are underway with India, Indonesia, and the Arab states to work out a framework for reforming the NAM's work and guaranteeing its active continuity.

The foreign minister said that holding the ministerial meetings every two years and the summits every three years guarantees a minimum level of survival and continuity for the movement.

Touching on the issue of the Palestinians deported from Libya, 'Amr Musa said that hundreds of deportees will soon leave the camps on the borders between Egypt and Libya and either return to their homes in Libya or go to Gaza. He added that Colonel Mu'ammar al- Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, will suspend a decision to deport 30,000 Palestinians residing in Libya. He said the deportees will be moved out of the border camps in a short period, not exceeding one or two weeks. He pointed out that some of these deportees will be allowed to cross the Egyptian border to Gaza, while the others will return to Libya.

The foreign minister said that the general understanding concluded during his meeting with Col. al-Qadhdhafi last week will be implemented soon and that the Palestinian leaders have been briefed on the agreement. He added that Israel has expressed its understanding that there is a problem that needs a solution.

Touching on regional economic cooperation in the Middle East and the need to link economic cooperation with a just and all-embracing peace settlement, the foreign minister said: So far, we have talked about economic cooperation without discussing immediate steps. What we are discussing now is the framework and the foundations, like the bank that is supposed to be established in Cairo. Such foundations will be completed in several years, hand in hand with progress on a peace settlement.

Industry Minister Defends Partnership With Europe

NC1310081495 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0610 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 13 Oct (MENA)— Dr. Ibrahim Fawzi, minister of industry and mineral resources, has pointed out that the partnership agreement with Europe involves many advantages for Egypt, primarily granting it access to European markets without imposing certain monopolies. He noted that excluding the labor transfer principle during negotiations serves Egypt's interests.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM published today, the industry minister remarked that Egypt's participation in the agreement means that European capital will be invested and that the quality of Egyptian products will be upgraded to facilitate their entry to the European market without taxation, just like Italian and German products, but with the added advantage of the favorable climate and cheap labor.

Referring to those who are apprehensive about joining the agreement, Dr. Ibrahim Fawzi remarked that they base their argument on the idea that most Egyptian industries were established to replace imports and thus occupy a limited part of Egyptian markets. They assumed that Egypt was closed to foreign commodities, he said.

The industry minister underlined the need to create dynamic competition that prompts us to improve our products and sell them in world markets, since the Egyptian market cannot create enough demand to absorb all the output. Unless we do this, we will not be able to create job opportunities for some 1.4 million who enter the job market every year, he said, adding that these unemployed may harbor malice toward society and create social concerns that hurt not only the government but domestic industry as well. He further explained that this situation will not reassure investors about their money in Egypt. Therefore, he said, we have to participate in economic groups to sell our products.

Asked whether Egypt should join a group with the Far East, America, Africa, Arab states, or Europe, he answered that Europe should be the choice, as it is a rich market to which Egypt enjoys the relative advantage of cheap labor. Moreover, he said, we have historic and cultural links with Europe, we know Europeans' needs, and they know ours because they have worked in industry in Egypt before.

Dr. Fawzi said the fears that factory owners in Egypt express are legitimate. However, he noted, it should be clear that Egypt's economy will not stop growing in the future just to protect a limited number of factories. All the existing factories must review their position to enhance their export capabilities further, just like all other countries, he said.

Dr. Fawzi pointed out that even those industrialists who object to the agreement admit that Egypt cannot live isolated from the world. Hence, we can say that just like GATT, the partnership agreement is almost compulsory, not in the sense that European powers are forcing us into it, but because world dynamics will make it imperative. Our future and the status we want to occupy in the future will force it on us, he remarked.

Asked why Arab states refrained from joining a standard agreement with Europe, the industry minister replied that these countries cannot possibly all agree on the same standard. In other words, what is good for me might not suit others, he explained, adding that the European Union left the agreement to the discretion of individual states. If anyone wants to join, the European Union will be ready to welcome him, discuss the terms of the agreement, and amend it according to the circumstances of individual states, he said.

The industry minister noted here that Tunisia accepted what was offered to it, while Egypt objected to certain terms and started to negotiate them. Europe gave us a period of 18 months to reach an agreement and sign. We negotiate through the committees that meet once in Brussels and once in Cairo to discuss specific matters. We asked all our industrialists to study the terms of the agreement and set their demands so that they will be taken into consideration when the matter is discussed with the European side, he said.

The minister pointed out that the agreement involves many benefits for Egypt, noting that some issues are still under discussion and that Egypt insists on amending certain points. He added: I can ultimately say that Egypt's future will rely on the world market. The nearest such market to us is the European. If we are to assume or restore our position, we should strive with all possible methods to occupy the largest area of the European market as soon as possible, he remarked.

Dr. Fawzi noted: If I fail to compete in the European market, I will not be able to do it in the African and Arab markets either. Some people call for concentrating on the African and Arab markets. But the purchasing power is very low in these markets. Moreover, the African markets are not exclusive to Egyptian products; there are products from Europe and all other countries. If I do not enter world competition at the highest level, I should not expect to find room in other markets, he said.

The industry minister said: We are hopeful. We will not close our factories; they will develop and compete. We were never defeated in a production battle. Many small products are manufactured in Egypt and sold abroad. But we only recently paid attention to exports and we believe that we are gaining new ground in export markets. Speaking of that, the Romanian ambassador has told me that Egypt occupies the fifth position in terms of foreign product sales in Romania. Although our export figures are low, there are good prospects. After all, we only started to pay attention to exports after the drop in our exports to the former Soviet Union, which were done without any effort to upgrade quality. But when we turn to a market with competition, we will have to start fresh.

Foreign Ministry Official Views IAEA Meeting

NC1210152395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1345 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—Ambassador Mahmud Karim, director of the Foreign Ministry's Disarmament Department, has stated that Egyptian diplomacy scored a major victory at the 39th session of the General Conference of the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] held recently in Vienna. The conference passed a resolution establishing a zone free of nuclear weapons in Africa.

In remarks today, Ambassador Karim pointed out that the conference welcomed Egypt's invitation to host the signing ceremony of this historic treaty, which will introduce Africa to a new world, free of weapons of mass destruction and where there is effective cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. He noted that the draft treaty will be submitted to the UN General Assembly in the next few weeks and will be signed afterward.

Ambassador Karim noted that the resolution issued by the conference included a clear, strong, and explicit reference to linking the establishment of a nuclear-free zone in Africa to establishing another zone in the Middle East, something that Egypt has been calling for since 1974. He pointed out that linking the security of Africa and the Middle East is very important and shows appreciation for Egypt's role and backing for President Mubarak's initiative to render the Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction.

Regarding the question of guarantees and their application in the Middle East, Ambassador Karim noted that Egypt fully backs the system of guarantees and inspection and will respect its obligations in this regard. [passage omitted]

Al-Alfi on Brotherhood Arrests, Elections

NC1210170795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1330 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has denied the existence of any relation between the upcoming parliamentary elections and the arrest of members of the dissolved Muslim Brotherhood. He added that all evidence collected by the security agencies proving the involvement of these members with terrorists are conclusive and precise. He added: The final say will be for the Egyptian judiciary, which has an untarnished record.

Speaking to journalists today, the interior minister stressed that all the arrests made by the state security agencies are lawful and did not involve any excesse or violation of laws. He added: Not a single person has been detained without conclusive evidence against him. Al-Alfi noted that the arrests were made with the permission of the Public Prosecution and State Security Prosecution. He pointed out that the Egyptian judiciary is marked by fairness and integrity and it will have the final say in this matter. Al-Alfi described those who twist the facts as "malicious people who work for people who have personal interest in the matter."

Asked about claims by human rights organizations that the security agencies are violating the rights of political prisoners held in Egyptian prisons, al-Alfi emphasized that the security agencies are concerned about human rights in Egypt. He added: Egyptian prisons are open for human rights groups to view the treatment of these prisoners. Al-Alfi denied the use of torture or pressure against any prisoner. He added: For those who dare accuse the security forces, I tell them the Interior Ministry's policy on this issue is very clear. He added: We now have a public relations department and any member of these groups or Amnesty International may visit it to obtain correct and accurate information. He pointed out that this department permits journalists to personally visit the prisons and supplies them with all necessary information, instead of erroneous information which international human rights groups obtain from unqualified sources.

Asked about the Interior Ministry's role in the upcoming parliamentary elections in Egypt, al-Alfi emphasized the "neutrality" of the security forces, whose role will be confined to protecting polling stations, voters, and ballot boxes, as well as maintaining law and order. None of them will interfere in the elections. The interior minister added that there will be no special measures for the elections in the Upper Egyptian Governorate of al-Minya. He added: There will be normal security measures, as usual.

Asked about the recent measures to rescind the arms licenses of persons who do not have solid reasons to carry a weapon, the interior minister said that after a thorough investigation security agencies discovered that some people had automatic and semiautomatic weapons without a sufficient reason. This is illegal. He added: As a result, the competent authorities have rescinded approximately 20,000 unwarranted arms licenses. He noted that approximately 1,200 cases of manslaughter and accidents have been committed by people carrying licensed weapons and, as a result, their licenses have been rescinded. Al-Alfi warned against violations by people carrying weapons and added that anyone who uses his weapon in ceremonies or for unwarranted purposes will immediately lose his license and will be put on trial. He noted that approximately 30,000 unlicensed weapons have been found and seized.

On the training of Arab and foreign cadets at the Egyptian Police Academy, al-Alfi said we have a reputable institute with good worldwide standing that is open to everybody. He added: It provides elite training that is current with the most advanced world methods, as certified by various countries. He noted that following the expansion of Palestinian self-rule, the Egyptian Academy welcomes cadets from various Arab and non-Arab countries.

Asked about the recent arrest in Croatia of an Egyptian terrorist element and whether the Interior Ministry is negotiating the extradition of terrorists abroad, al-Alfi said that contacts aimed at extraditing these elements are continuing, but for the sake of security we will not get into more details.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Message From Tunisia's Ben Ali

LD1210203495 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The brother leader of the revolution [al- Qadhdhafi] has received President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's special envoy Brother Said Ben Mostafa, secretary of state attached to the foreign minister in charge of Arab Maghreb Union affairs of fraternal Tunisia.

The envoy conveyed to the brother leader of the revolution a message on the two countries' fraternal relations as well as other topics of common interest.

People's Congress Secretary Criticizes Sanctions

LD1110204795 Tripoli JANA in English 1757 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Bucharest, Al Timour 11 [October 11] Jamahariya News Agency — The secretary of the General People's Congress has confirmed that all regional and international organisations have denounced the unfair sanctions imposed on the Great Jamahariyah.

He revealed, in his speech to the 94th conference of the international parliamentary union currently taking place in the Romanian capital Bucharest, that the intransigence of Western states concerned with the so-called Lockerbie case has delayed the settlement of this case fabricated against Libya despite the initial initiatives to solve the impasse which were supported by the Arab League, the Organisation of African Unity, the Islamic Conference Organisation, the Non-Aligned Movement and other international and regional organisations.

The secretary of the General People's Congress called on members of the international parliamentary union conference to support the efforts of international and regional organisations to settle the so-called Lockerbie case, justly in accordance with the relevant Arab League resolution.

The secretary called for the adoption of the resolutions that express the will of nations in achieving international peace, stability, security and respect for human rights.

He said that the unfair sanctions have damaged Libya and the neighbouring countries and resulted in substantial human and material damages.

He went on to say that many international and regional organisations announced their support for the Libyan point of view and called on the security council to revoke the unfair sanctions. These organisations include: the Arab League, the Organisation of African Unity, the Islamic Conference Organisation, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Arab parliamentary union and the African parliamentary union. We hope that the parliamentary delegations represented in the union urge their governments to take note of the Libyan point of view and respond to the call to lift the unfair sanctions.

He confirmed that millions of people are looking forward to this significant conference, which they anticipate will form a link between the countries of the world in their search for peace and formulate the basis for stable and just cooperation in all areas to enhance trust between nations, consolidate the foundations of peace and eliminate the shadow of wars and catastrophes.

He added we want stability for our world and we have to find solutions for outstanding problems and create a balance in development between the north and south by encouraging economic and social development in the Third World and supporting infra-structural projects.

The secretary of the General People's Congress condemned the policy of double standards. He said: aggression is being directed by the powerful against the weak and he called for an end to such policies so that situations do not escalate and disasters are repeated on a wider scale.

He confimred that delegates to this conference could issue resolutions which will ensure peace, security and stability and will guarantee human rights in the political, social and economic sectors. Resolutions passed to prevent injustice and aggression must not lead to oppression and poverty and subsequently to the violation of universally God-given human rights.

The secretary called on conference participants to stand up against wars, conflicts, blockades and terrorism. Everyone should call for cooperation and equality so that peace, security and welfare spread and the spectre of fear, poverty and ignorance disappears and stability prevails everywhere. The nations expect us to set out clear guidelines and criteria for a bright future, look on us with optimism and pin their hopes on the achievement of happiness.

This year we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of the end of the Second World War and we have a duty to remember the war itself and events leading up to it. The first half of this century witnessed bitter, sad and disastrous events when the two world wars broke out between countries. Effects of war which spread to other peaceful areas. Many nations are continuing to suffer from the after effects of the war. At that time the voice of righteousness and justice disappeared and the law of the jungle prevailed. Chaos dominated, power controlled the weak and millions perished as victims. Economies were left in ruins, poverty spread and the process of development was blocked for a considerable time.

At the end of the war the world experienced a measure of stability and security. The voice of democracy began to echo in numerous areas. Legal and democratic institutions emerged and the nations made contact for economic cooperation and the exchange of knowledge. Many countries advanced in the areas of science and invention. Other countries followed the same road towards progress and embarked on the march of civilisation. Everybody began to look towrads the future with hope and optimism.

But towards the end of the century evil omens are appearing to remind us of the catastrophies and vagaries of war which took place in the first half of the century. There are wars and conflicts in a number of countries between rivals for power because of the absence of democracy. There are those who commit crimes while raising slogans condemning such vicious acts such as the killing of the innocent, the spread of fear and the destruction of installations.

Customs Official on Confiscation of Goods

LD1110162795 Tripoli JANA in English
1435 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al-Tumur [October] 11 (JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY) — Contrary to AFP reports, an official in the Libyan customs department yesterday denied that customs authorities are confiscating the goods of travellers crossing into Egypt at the al-Sallum border post. AFP quoted the head of the Egyptian customs police as the source of this allegation.

The director of technical administration in the Libyan customs department made a statement to JANA in which he said that Libyan- Arab customs authorities did not adopt any extraordinary measures and are following usual procedures in accordance with the implementation of the relevant regulations.

He added that only prohibited goods were liable for confiscation in accordance with the proper procedures adopted by the general people's committee for the economy. Any goods which are not approved are legally defined as contraband.

The director of technical administration at the customs department said that the regulations adopted in respect of currency transfers to or from Libya are well known. Such transactions must be approved by the Libyan central bank in the form of bank notes and require a customs declaration for the value and type of currency in accordance with Libya's banking laws. These measures are well known in other countries and Libyan customs officials are eager to facilitate the formalities in the departure of Libyan and Egyptian nationals, the facilitation of their movement and the exchange of goods between the two countries within context of the relevant agreements in the service of economic integration and the unique historical relationship between the people of the one Arab nation in both countries.

Kurdish Nationalists Hail al-Qadhdhafi's Stances

LD1110143795 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1330 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kurdish nationalists have expressed their profound appreciation for and and pride in the stances of the brother leader of the revolution vis-a-vis the issue of the Kurds. A statement by them said that these frank and brave stances will be an incentive for our nation to proceed toward the correct path to attain its rights. The statement also said: We would like to express our appreciation and thanks for the brave Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Arab nation, on his correct stance vis-a-vis our cause, and his brave defense of the peoples' struggle, and his frankness that stems from his truthfulness and humane attitudes.

General People Committee Approves Draft Laws

LD1110222995 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The General People Committee [GPC] ended its ordinary meeting for this year (?14)24 [1995] at al-Wafa' hall in Surt. The meeting, which continued for two consecutive days, was held to implement and plan the resolutions of the basic people's congresses.

At this evening's session, the GPC approved draft laws that the specialist committees will submit to the basic people's congresses at their forthcoming sessions.

Among the draft laws the GPC examined were a draft law on the amendment of some of the provisions of Law No 7 of 1990 on narcotics and hallucinogens; a draft law on the amendment of some of the legislations concerning real estate ownership; a draft law on the amendment of some of the provisions of Law 148 of 1972 concerning punishment for theft and acts of aggression [hirabah]; a draft law on the amendment of some of the provisions of the Protection of Agricultural Land Law and the Protection of Animals and Trees Law.

The GPC also approved at the meeting a draft law on the amendment of some of the provisions of the Judicial System; a draft law on the amendment of some of the provisions of Law 1 of 1992 on the organization of higher education; a draft law on the establishment of a ruling on the unification of employment procedure for civil servants, customs guards, and agricultural police; a draft law of establishment of rulings on fees for legal services; and a draft law on combating smuggling and speculation in essential goods.

The committee also approved a memorandum by the GPC for Tourism on a law on the organization of tourism.

The GPC approved a draft law on the strategy for jamahiri [mass] information and a draft law on jamahiri education, which were put forward by the General People's Committee for Information, Culture, and Mass Mobilization to be submitted to the basic people's congresses to draw up policies and guidance in the information and cultural fields and determine what kind of information do we want and what kind of culture do we desire.

The GPC had decided to specify the authorities of each of the executive committees of sectors in the regions and selected secretaries for these committees.

At its meeting, the GPC also reviewed the new financial arrangements concerning the implementation of the general budget at the level of sectors, the people's committees of the basic people's congresses, and the draft budget for (?14)25 AD [1996]. It also reviewed the memorandum of the General Religious Endowment Authority.

Sudan

Foreign Minister Comments on 'Southern' Problem

EA1210183095 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Muhammad Taha, has announced that a new round of talks between the government and factions of the rebel movement will be held soon.

In a statement issued in New York, His Excellency said Sudan will continue its efforts to resolve the southern problem peacefully. He added that Sudan has reiterated its confidence in Kenya's ability to reactivate the IGADD [Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development] initiative aimed at bringing about lasting peace in the country.

The foreign minister said the southern problem is on the way toward a complete resolution and settlement, especially after the issuance of Constitutional Decree No. 12, which grants federal states in general, and the southern states in particular, increased political and legal powers to conduct their own affairs. He also described the government's efforts to achieve peace from within as just and comprehensive.

Government Suspicious of Belgium Aid, Denies Flights

BR1210155795 Brussels KNACK in Dutch 11-17 Oct 95 p 150

[Report by Dirk Draulans: "The Cardinal's Fault — The Services of the Belgian Air Force Are no Longer Valued in East Africa — A Strange Business"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Since July the "Open House" bar in Lokichokio airport in north Kenya has been closed. The Belgian Air Force C130, which in better times dropped aid goods up to four times a day over south Sudan, paid for by ECHO (European Community Humanitarian Office), has been withdrawn from active service. "It is a pity," said Trevor Harvey of Operation Lifeline Sudan. "Because the Belgians were the most professional people we flew with. And they integrated well in our aid workers' community. But the Sudanese Government does not want them to drop aid goods any longer unless it can check the load."

That is a problem. "If, before we drop, we have to land at an airfield controlled by the Sudanese Government, then we can take a maximum of five tonnes of aid goods because we have to take a lot of additional fuel along," explains Commander Jan Lemmens of the Belgian Air Force. "This reduces the efficiency of our aid significantly. I cannot avoid the impression that the Sudanese Government wants to short-circuit us."

Sean Culligan of ECHO shares this opinion. "First the Sudanese said they no longer wanted a gray C130 to fly over their territory, because they had reports that such a plane was carrying out bombing raids for the rebels. But when we proposed painting our C130 white, or even yellow, that was not enough. Therefore, more must be involved. In the meantime, the Sudanese refugees feel that aid is not getting through so smoothly any more. So they are heading in the direction of the border with Kenya and Uganda, and that benefits the government troops. In that perspective, taking the Belgian C130 out of active service could be a strategic move."

This reasoning is not completely water-tight. For example, the Sudanese have no problem with a C130 owned by a South African private company dropping food aid. Here and there it is whispered that Sudan is rejecting the Belgian contribution due to the activities of Cardinal Godfried Danneels. Last year he visited the rebels in south Sudan. Recently the regime in Khartoum refused to give a visa to Danneels as president of the hated Pax Christi. Belgians are suspected of providing active aid to the Christian rebels.

In Love

Remarkably enough, the Belgian C130 was used above Somalia briefly last month until these flights were also suspended, although ECHO had planned and paid for more than 1,000 flight hours this year. Moreover the Armed Forces fly cheaper than hired private companies. But nevertheless Culligan chose to supply the Somali towns with aircraft "which stand out less."

That is leading to questions being asked, including in the 15th Wing itself. It has been suggested that Culligan was under pressure from small private companies which earn a lot of money from lucrative aid provision activities in the Horn of Africa, and which can do without cheap and efficient competitors.

"For the 15th Wing that is regrettable," said Commander Jules De Smet. "Aid activities are a good way of building up experience in crisis situations, without the Air Force having to pay the costs. We hope that we will be brought in again soon. Perhaps the Belgian Government should consider linking the money which it may spend on humanitarian activities to cooperation with the 15th Wing for transport. Everyone would do well out of it, from the tax payer who would see his money used more efficiently through to the aid workers, who would be able to work with the most professional people."

In any case the 15th Wing appears to be in love with Africa. When the final crew learned that it had to go home earlier than planned, the C130 was suddenly faced with a "rare defect": A breakage in one of the few parts which was not available from the stores. It took two days to fly in a spare part from Belgium. The additional hotel costs were paid by the European Community.

Authorities 'Ignoring' al-Mahdi Exit Visa Request

NC1210150695 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1420 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—A statement by the Sudanese Ummah Party says the Sudanese authorities are ignoring an application by al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, the party's leader, for an exit visa to travel to Germany in response to an official invitation he received from the German foreign minister. Al-Mahdi is to participate in a seminar on "Islam and the Arabs" in early November.

The statement says al-Mahdi applied for an exit visa, but the authorities have not yet responded to the application despite their claims that they respect peoples' rights and freedom of opinion and travel.

The statement cites al-Sadiq al-Mahdi as saying that based on his right to travel, he will respond to invitations from abroad if he is allowed to travel, but will return to Sudan to continue his struggle to realize the Sudanese people's demand for democracy.

Western Sahara

Head of State Chairs National Assembly Session

LD1310094195 (Clandestine) National Radio of the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic in Arabic 2300 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Brother Mohamed Abdelaziz, head of state and secretary general of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro], chaired the constituent session of the Saharan National Assembly at the conference hall of the 27 February National School today in accordance with the statutes of the front issued by the 7th General People's Congress. This constituent session was attended by the elected members of the assembly, the members of the National Secretariat, government ministers, and a number of delegations representing sisterly and friendly countries.

Over to our colleague [word indistinct] for more details:

[Correspondent] [Words indistinct] Mohamed Abdelaziz, head of state and secretary general of the Polisario Front, chaired the constituent session of the Saharan National Assembly, whose members were chosen through democratic, transparent, and fair elections. [Words indistinct] The session was attended by many friendly and sisterly delegations headed as usual by the Algerian delegation representing the Algerian Government and people, in addition to many Islamic delegations, representatives of the international media, a delegation of the UN mission in the Western Sahara and political and military officials.

Ninety-five party activists, who were elected at local and regional conferences to represent the people, met this evening at the constituent session of the first elected Saharan National Assembly. Ninety-five is not the full number of the members of the assembly because there are six other members whose names have not been disclosed. These six represent the steadfast masses of our people in the occupied areas. [passage omitted]

The head of state began his speech by congratulating the people's deputies who were elected democratically. He then talked about the characteristics of the current conditions and the situation being experienced. He said: We are a liberation movement and we fight to defend the national legitimate rights of the Saharan people. We are endeavoring to lay down the foundations of a free and democratic state in which the people have their sovereignty through the election of their representatives.

The head of state talked at length about the resolutions of the Nineth General People's Congress characterized by a democratic experiment which highlighted the high degree of responsibility and maturity of our grassroots. [Words indistinct] The president added: The people's deputies are today facing huge responsibilities and tasks for they are the members of a body in charge of legislation, control, and auditing [as heard]. [Words indistinct] another serious prerogative which is the mission of mobilizing and motivating [the people] and the mission of leading the people and the battle [words indistinct].

At the end of his address, the president renewed his congratulations to the participants [representing] the Saharan people and their political organizations for marking achievements in difficult circumstances [words indistinct].

Envoy Comments on Parliament's First Meeting

LD1210184195 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The first elected Saharan Parliament was installed today. It is a legislative body with about 100 members representing all strata of the population. The establishment of this national council was decided by the last congress of the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] Front. Let us hear the [unidentified] Saharan ambassador to Algeria on the subject of the importance of this first elected parliament for a people who are still struggling for their independence. He spoke to Maya Sabr:

[Begin ambassador recording] Its importance lies in the fact that it is the source legitimizing all laws. In other words, as a legislative body its role is to make laws, to make norms, to be a parliament exercising effective control over the executive bodies, especially the government. It is also a parliament whose importance lies in the fact that it is a body where all the Saharan social strata, all the strata, are represented, and it comes at a moment when the Saharan people have just passed the 20th anniversary of their struggle. So they are already mature enough to try the experiment of democracy and to give the people the means for them to rule themselves. [end recording]

GCC Ministers Against Harboring 'Foreigners'

LD1110171795 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
1310 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Riyadh, 11 Oct (SPA) — The trade ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] approved in their 22d meeting, which concluded at the headquarters of the general secretariat on 1 October [date as received], the standard bylaw on combating the harboring of foreigners in the countries of the council.

A statement issued by the GCC's general secretariat said that the ministers decided to use the bylaw in a consultative manner, and review it constantly to improve and develop it.

The bylaw said that it is impermissible to harbor a foreigner by allowing him to practice any economic or professional activity from which he is barred from practicing, be it through using the name of the person harboring him, his licence, commercial register, or any other means.

The foreigner is also not allowed to invest or carry out for himself or in partnership with somebody else any activity not allowed under the investment of foreign capital statue, or any of the other statues and decisions in force in the country. The statement pointed out that the bylaw will punish the person harboring the foreigner with a prison sentence and a financial fine specified by the competent quarters in the member countries. The person being harbored will also be given the same punishment, and expulsion from the country after carrying out the sentence.

The statement also points out that a sentence or a conviction will, according to the rulings of this bylaw, lead to the striking of the commercial register, cancellation of the license, rounding up of the activities of the business in which the harborage took place, publication of the decision in the local press, and preventing the harboring person from practicing the activity that was the subject of the harborage for a period of no more than five years. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Foreign Minister on Iraq, Gulf Relations

MM1010160495 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
7 Oct 95 p 7

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shaykh Muhammad Bin-Mubarak Al Khalifah by Raghidah Dirgham in New York; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Dirgham] You warned in previous statements of serious complications for Iraq's future if the deterioration in its economic conditions continued. What are the risks you had in mind?

[Al Khalifah] The Iraqi people are experiencing social crises. All UN reports indicate that conditions in the economy, housing, water, agriculture, supply, and health are deteriorating. All this worries us as Arab brothers. This is why we strongly urge Iraq to implement the [UN] resolutions, especially the resolution concerning the purchase of essential food commodities, namely Resolution 986. I believe that this resolution serves the humanitarian aspects. All we are saying is that we hope that Iraq will hasten to respond to the international community.

[Dirgham] Bahrain always stresses Iraq's territorial integrity.

[Al Khalifah] Very much. We insist (on Iraq's unity). In all our discussions, whether with the United States or the other permanent members of the Security Council, in my capacity as a Bahraini and as president of the current session of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC], and in all the meetings we held at the United Nations, we have always called on these states to understand that Iraq's unity is a fundamental issue. And there should be no thinking or tendency toward partitioning Iraq.

[Dirgham] But there is a difference of opinion among GCC members. Some people talk of drawing a new map of Iraq; others talk of a federation. And some people insist on noninterference in Iraq's internal affairs. So differences do exist inside the GCC.

[Al Khalifah] Not at all. GCC resolutions are clear and frank. We are agreed on Iraq's unity.

[Dirgham] So what is your opinion of some Gulf people's claim that a federation is the only solution for Iraq and that that requires almost partitioning it into north, center, and south?

[Al Khalifah] Ideas are always raised on the political stage. And there are attempts to produce solutions to certain issues. But we as states and officials believe that Iraq is one unit — which is in the interests of Iraq, its people, and the stability of the region as a whole.

[Dirgham] Some Gulf officials also say it is impossible to coexist with Iraq under Saddam Husayn. Is this your position?

[Al Khalifah] Our position is clear and based on Iraq's implementation of the resolutions of international legitimacy. We are not talking about internal matters or who should rule this or that country. We are talking about international resolutions which should be implemented fully. We can deal with matters on that basis.

[Dirgham] If Iraq implements all the international resolutions, what should follow vis-a-vis the lifting of the oil blockade on Iraq?

[Al Khalifah] It is up to the Security Council. It was the Security Council that adopted these resolutions, so it is the Security Council that will decide on the lifting of the blockade. If the causes are eliminated, as I said in my speech [to the UN General Assembly], the situation will be restored to its previous status.

[Dirgham] So — if I understood you well — you do not share the view that it is impossible to coexist with Saddam Husayn's regime, even after the resolutions have been implemented?

[Al Khalifah] I do not want to plunge into hypothetical issues. These are assumptions. We as states are cooperating for the sake of the region and the interests of our countries and those of Iraq. I cannot make matters any simpler than that. People can say whatever they like, but we as officials talk only about international legitimacy, the international law, and international charters. I am talking within such a framework. As for the statements made here or there, there are many of them.

[Dirgham] How do you understand what is being said about a new map of Iraq? How do you understand that?

[Khalifah] I do not agree with that orientation. I believe that those are merely ideas. But Iraq has always been an Arab state with recognized borders, so there is no need for these ideas. What should be raised now is how Iraq should implement the resolutions and how the blockade on Iraq should be lifted. This is what is being discussed. As for the ideas raised vis-a-vis the future and a new map of the Middle East and another of Iraq, I believe these are merely assumptions and speculations.

[Dirgham] The August incidents concerning Iraq prompted a great deal of talk about axes and competition over roles among states and leaders, in addition to the need to impose a change in Iraq through a regional alliance imposed from outside.

[Al Khalifah] We do not interfere in those issues. Nor is it our policy to set up axes and blocs or to interfere [in others' affairs]. Our position is clear. We say it both openly and privately: International legitimacy has set regulations which should be respected.

[Dirgham] If Iraq extends a hand of cooperation and implements all the requirements....

[Al Khalifah] That can be discussed then. Iraq has to take those steps in order for the embargo to be lifted. This is the focus of discussions now. Any other matters are mere assumptions. Matters change and strategies change.

[Dirgham] You know the U.S. position, the undeclared one, of course. But what is being said in private meetings is that the sanctions against Iraq should be maintained as long as Iraq is in power.

[Al Khalifah] That question should be put to the United States.

[Dirgham] Do you share that view?

[Al Khalifah] I said earlier that we are moving toward international legitimacy, and we do not interfere in the internal affairs of any country.

[Dirgham] King Husayn is playing a role which seems to be important. How do you view King Husayn's role at this particular stage?

[Al Khalifah] King Husayn is an Arab leader who has his own vision and orientation. In his moves he proceeds from Jordanian concepts. I cannot comment on the Jordanian position. It is for Jordan to explain this position. King Husayn plays an effective role in the Arab world and is known for his ability to understand matters. But there are matters which concerns Jordan only, so Jordan can formulate its policy in a manner that suits its interests.

[Dirgham] My question concerns the Iraqi dimension. The new position adopted by King Husayn concerns the Iraqi dimension, not the domestic aspect.

[Al Khalifah] Jordan proceeds from its own circumstances, geographical and economic, with regard to Iraq. Of course, the situation in the Gulf war was different. And the situation now is also different.

[Dirgham] Do you believe there is a Gulf willingness to normalize with Jordan and to restore relations with it to their normal status, regardless of the past?

[Al Khalifah] I believe that the Arab atmosphere should witness improvement based on trust and commitment. If we have learned anything from the Gulf war, it is that there is no commitment or trust. Arab trust must be restored and so must Arab commitment. Thus if we want to take effective steps, the Arab scene and the Arab dialogue must witness the restoration of trust — trust based on commitment. We believe that our disagreement with Jordan should not continue forever. Politics develop, but this developments should be from both sides. Jordan has dispatched an ambassador to Jordan, and Jordan has an ambassador in Bahrain. The Jordanian foreign minister visited us, and he visits the region as a whole. So there is change and improvement. Yes, there is an improvement.

[Dirgham] How do you view tomorrow's Iran and tomorrow's Iraq in your future?

[Al Khalifah] It is difficult for anyone to predict. One can only judge what is in place. We hope that Iraq will be an Arab Gulf state playing a role of cooperation and interaction with its neighbors to build a better future for the states in the region. Cooperation, not confrontation. The same applies to Iran. Their internal affairs are their business. We do not want any kind of confrontation. Confrontation leads to complications. The future of any state is the responsibility of its people, and I cannot give advice to any country. All I can say is that dealings should be based on common interests.

[Dirgham] So it seems to me that you are against the "dual containment" policy adopted by the United States toward Iraq and Iran.

[Al Khalifah] The phrase "dual containment" is more academic than practical. Everyone talks about dual containment, but it is more theoretical than realistic. I understand that Gulf states operate in accordance with a unified view adopted at ministerial and summit levels: How to deal with Iran and how to deal with Iraq?

[Dirgham] And with Israel?

[Al Khalifah] And without doubt [with] Israel. The peace process is developing rapidly, and the step taken in Washington late last month is very important. So matters are developing and moving toward peace and normalization. However, without doubt the Syrian and Lebanese issue is very important, as far as we are concerned. We cannot continue that without progress on the Syrian and Lebanese track.

[Dirgham] By "that" do you mean normalization?

[Al Khalifah] Yes. There can only be full normalization when there is full peace.

[Dirgham] It has been reported that Iran interferes in the internal affairs of Bahrain. What truth is there in this?

[Al Khalifah] We said that what happened in Bahrain was instigated by extremist groups — fanatic groups that have their own orientations. Without doubt Bahrain believes that assistance or guidance in this connection is offered by foreign forces.

[Dirgham] Iran?

[Al Khalifah] I do not want to talk about or accuse any state. You journalists can ask whatever you like, but very simply, I do not want to accuse one country or another.

[Dirgham] Have you learned any lessons from your recent experience in tackling domestic events in Bahrain? And what measures will be taken in the light of these lessons to tackle the situation?

[Al Khalifah] I believe that we in Bahrain are a developed regime that constantly develops matters and tries to improve and develop things. What happened in Bahrain has nothing to do with development. On the contrary, what happened was designed to obstruct Bahrain and undermine security in the country, and was not aimed against Bahrain only. It is an orientation aimed at undermining the situation in the Gulf region as a whole. They [not identified] will exploit any opportunity in any region. It is an external tendency working to undermine the situation in the region. Reforms cannot be achieved by burning cars and attacking private property. You know these tendencies well, the Arab world knows them well, and the Bahraini people know them well. With regard to reforms, we are always developing the shura system. His highness the amir said in his speech on the occasion of the council's inauguration that the shura is the system in which the people participate, hence it should be developed and pushed forward. This is our position. A change at the highest level has been made in the administrative organ in the state. So the development process is continuing. And we believe in development and will continue to move in this direction.

[Dirgham] Of course, Bahraini-Qatari relations have experienced difficulties. What is their status now?

[Al Khalifah] Qatar is a fraternal state and a GCC member. There is no [problem] between us and Qatar except one issue. We believe that, if there is a dispute between us, it should be resolved in the Gulf family framework.

[Dirgham] Do you mean the border dispute?

[Al Khalifah] The issue of the borders and the border dispute. It should be resolved in the framework of the GCC, cooperation, brotherhood, and amity. This is what we are always seeking in Bahrain.

Kuwait

Prime Minister Leads Higher Planning Council

LD1110191395 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the Higher Planning Council, this morning opened the meetings of the Higher Planning Council in its third session. At the beginning of the meeting, Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah delivered an address in which he praised the achievements of the Higher Planning Council during its previous session and said that the council has prepared a collection of studies relating to many economic and social issues, especially a proposal relating to the development policies. He said the council has also preparted policies of realizing development during the coming phase, as well as proposals on suitable solutions for the problem of the demographic formation imbalance, on the means of reinforcing the movement of economic activities, on confronting the deficit in the state's general budget, and on realizing social security for the citizens.

His highness reaffirmed that the main tasks of the council during this session will entail the completion of the studies that have been referred to the council's specialized committees, especially those relating to the reforming of the educational system and redirecting it in accordance with a clear strategy capable of realizing the qualititative transformation to confront the challenges of the 21st century. Other tasks include studying the policy of employment in government and the consequences resulting from expanding the granting of consumers' loans, transferring some public activities to the private sector. The council must do all this while making sure it improves the citizens' quality of life, continues to contribute to efforts being made to reinforce the movement of economic activities, and strengthens confidence in our national economy in conditions of security, stability, and national unity.

After that, member of the council, Ahmad Sa'd al-Jasir, replied by thanking his highness. [passage omitted]

The Higher Planning Council then discussed the issues listed on its agenda. Planning Minister 'Abd al-'Aziz Dakhil al-Dakhil acquainted the council with the measures taken by the government regarding the general framework of the development plan project. Fu'ad Mulla Husayn, secretary general of the council, then presented his annual report about the activities of the council during the previous session. The Higher Planning Council then discussed the preliminary memorandum that has been submitted by the policies committee relating to the development of the jurisdictions and authorities of the council. It was decided to entrust the committee with the preparation of a complete study about the issue by coordinating with the competent authorities. The council then adopted the continuation of the permanent formation of its standing committees. Oil Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Muhsin Mid'aj al-Mid'aj then presented a summarized report on the fourth international energy conference recently held in Venezuela. The council then discussed a number of local issues. The Higher Planning Council then decided to hold its next meeting on 15 November.

Army Chief of Staff on Joint Exercises

LD1110133095 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1228 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The joint Kuwaiti-U.S. military exercises codenamed "Intrinsic Action - 1/16" were concluded today in the Idayri' area, in the north of the country. In the exercises forces from the Kuwaiti Army and National Guard, and U.S. forces, aimed at raising the preparedness and combat efficiency of the Kuwaiti fighter. Many types of sophisticated weapons such as the Abrams American tank, F-18 aircraft, and the Kuwaiti Gazelle [helicopter] were used in these exercises which began early this month.

Staff Major General 'Ali Muhammad al-Mu'min, the Kuwaiti Army chief of staff, said that these joint exercises will continue in order to improve the combat capabilities of the armed forces. He added that "the exercises we saw today contained many up-to-date changes that go hand-in-hand with military activities in all their advanced details." Major General al-Mu'min praised all the participants in these exercises and expressed hope that this military cooperation [between Kuwait and the United States] will continue and will have the best of results. [passage omitted]

The exercises were attended by Staff Air Major General Fahd al-Amir, the Kuwaiti deputy chief of staff, the commander [words indistinct], Ryan Crocker, the U.S. ambassador to Kuwait, and the commanders of the Kuwaiti Army and National Guard.

Saudi Arabia

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Addresses UN

LD1210111295 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
0453 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] New York, 11 Oct [SPA] — The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has reaffirmed its continued commitment to and desire for the realization of the objectives contained in the UN Charter, and has said that it will not shirk its responsibility vis-a-vis the activation of the UN role and the bolstering of its capability to safeguard international peace and security, and to support international cooperation within the framework of international legitimacy. It pointed out that the success of the United Nations in tackling the international economic problems and the UN role in promoting the world development process is linked to the extent of the member-states' commitment to the provisions of the UN Charter. It called on all the states that have not yet joined the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] to take steps to join this treaty as this will contribute to the realization of international peace and security.

This came in the speech delivered today by Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal at the United Nations General Assembly [UNGA] in its 50th session currently being held in New York. Follows the text of the speech:

In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate; prayers and peace be upon the most honorable Prophet and Messenger. [passage omitted]

Mr. President: In the past 50 years the United Nations organization has gone through diverse circumstances and international crises with varying degrees of seriousness, complexity, and threat to world peace and security. We all realized that the ability of this international body to deal with international crises and problems always remained linked to how much political will there was to implement its principles and charters. [passage omitted]

The changes and developments, however, which occurred in the international arena in the past decade have strengthened our hope in the consecration of the basic role of this organization, namely the preservation of the security and safety of the international community, regardless of whether the present period constitutes a new international order or not. [passage omitted]

Mr. President: By all standards the treacherous Iraqi aggression on the state of Kuwait in 1990 constituted a flagrant challenge to all the principles and foundations on which the UN Charter depends, and totally contravened the general trend which became prominent within the development and changes in which our present international order passed. The honorable stance which was taken by the international community since the first moments of that aggression when it took its decisive and brave decision to resist and check the aggression provided a unique example which ought to be repeated every time the international community faces such a flagrant challenge. That principled stance was embodied in historic resolutions issued by the UN Security Council which led to the removal of the aggression and the restoration of legitimacy and sovereignty to the fraternal state of Kuwait, and the prevention of the aggression being repeated again. Proceeding from this starting point we have always sought that those resolutions should be dealt with as a complete legal unit with which the full and comprehensive implementation of the contents of those resolutions become a fundamental demand when the question of reducing or removing the sanctions stipulated by the UN Security Council resolutions relating to that aggression are discussed. Although we fully aware of the difficulties and sufferings being experienced by the fraternal Iraqi people as a result of the continued imposition of international sanctions — a matter which makes us reaffirm our total sympathy with it in its current tribulation — the international community knows that responsibility for that falls on the shoulders of the Iraqi regime which has continued its procrastination vis-a-vis the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions, in addition to its rejection of resolutions 706, 712, and 986.

I am here referring to the resolutions which deal with humane requirements and needs of the Iraqi people. Our experience with this regime and its aggressive tendencies according to the reports submitted by Mr. Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the special committee entrusted with the elimination of the Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, and the recent statements made by one of the pillars of this regime who defected to Jordan regarding this regime's intentions and methods — all these factors make us insist on our stance regarding the need for us to ascertain the intentions of the Iraqi regime before reconsidering the sanctions. Although we totally appreciate the efforts that have been and are being made by Mr. Ekeus and his esteemed committee to realize this objective, we have noted that the volume of serious information revealed by the Iraqi defector has exceeded by a great deal everything that the special committee on the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction has been able to gather over five years of continued work, a matter that requires us to immediately raise the level of the work of this committee and improve it capabilities, and provide better means for searching and monitoring so that it can perform its tasks in an efficient and effective manner appropriate to the level of its profound importance.

We look forward to the return of fraternal Iraq to the fold of the international community as a responsible member carrying out a constructive role in the international arena because its noble people are known for their capabilities and energies. The suffering of the Iraqi people will remain a source for our anxieties and preoccupation. We will continue to work to maintain the unity of Iraq, its sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

Mr President, honorable gentlemen: We are still following with interest the developments of the Middle East peace process, with its bilateral and multilateral parts, and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has supported this process from the day it was launched in Madrid in 1991 since when it has contributed to push forward the bilateral talks between the Arab and Israeli sides. It has also taken part, through delegations representing it, in the various committees emanating from the multilateral talks.

Our interest and effective participation reflected the sincere desire and intentions of the Arabs to seek a just and comprehensive peace in the region. We have already said on several occasions that the multilateral talks were part of the peace process which began in Madrid and that these talks complemented the bilateral talks and were not a substitute for them. Our participation in the proceedings of the committees was based on this and consequently our assessment of any progress which might result from the multilateral talks became closely linked to the relative progress which had been or could be achieved in the bilateral talks attended by the sides which are directly concerned by the nature of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The agreement on the Declaration of Principles between the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Israeli government, signed in Washington in 1993, spread a climate of optimism given that what happened constituted a pioneering step toward a peaceful and just settlement of the Palestinian issue. However, it did not take long before the Palestinian-Israeli accord came up against numerous obstacles and obstructions put by Israel and these prevented the Palestinian Authority from getting ready to exercise its duties and extend its authority over the entire West Bank in accordance with the principles of the agreement. [passage omitted]

Regarding the Jordanian-Israeli track, my country has previously declared its welcome for what was agreed by the two sides, but thus far we have not noted any tangible progress in the negotiations on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks. The question of the occupied Syrian Arab Golan is clear, governed by the principles of honoring the international frontiers. Syria has already covered a long distance in the direction of preparing the climate in order to reach a settlement for its conflict with Israel, whether through raising the level of its representation at the bilateral negotiations or through the angle of positiveness and seriousness in dealing with the arrangements of settlement. However, this constructive trend by the Syrian government has not — thus far — been accompanied by the response it deserves from the Israeli side. As for the Lebanese-Israeli track, it is subject to UN Security Council resolution 425 which clearly stipulates the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli forces from the occupied Lebanese territries.

The question of Holy Jerusalem which constitutes the essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict remains the axis of the interests of the Arab and Islamic worlds. The future of the entire peace process depends on the method of dealing with this issue. If a decision has been reached to postpone the discussion of the question of Jerusalem to the final stages of the peace negotiations, then the reason for this postponement is not to belittle the importance of this issue, but it is out of a desire to give the peace process an opportunity to create an atmosphere of confidence to help dealing with the extremely sensitive issue of Jerusalem in a manner that guarantees the success of such an action. We regret to find the Israeli authorities are continuing to take a series of measures aimed at creating demographic and administrative changes which are likely to change the city and thus influence in advance the forthcoming negotiations when the latter tackle the final status of this city. Our stance on this issue was and still is: Any settlement of this question should take into consideration UN Resolution 242 which stipulates Israel's withdrawal from the territories it occupied in 1967 and Resolution 252 relating to the Holy City of Jerusalem. It is also necessary that any permanent and comprehensive settlement should take care of the subject of the return of the Palestinian refugees and the release of prisoners in addition to the question of the settlements which have been built and are being built by the Israeli occupation authorities in the occupied territories, thus violating the text and spirit of the accord of principles, and disregarding the provisions of international law and the Geneva conventions.

The government of the custodian of the two holy mosques has taken a profound interest in the efforts that aim to remove the danger of weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East region, including the work to make this sensitive part of the world an area free from all types of weapons, nuclear, chemical and biological. Proceeding from this starting point the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has endeavored to positively participate in the New York conference on the future of the NPT which was convened earlier this year. The stance of my country was based on the support it previously declared for the efforts that aim at making the Middle East region an area free from weapons of mass destruction. Despite our belief in the need to increase the effectiveness of NPT by way of activating the guarantees system of the International Atomic Energy Agency and giving it an international status, we think it necessary to lay down standards and regulations that help to attain the progress we seek in all aspects of the elimination of mass destruction weapons, in harmony with the UN Resolution 1 for 1946 which dealt with all weapons of mass destruction. In this regard we call on all the states which have not yet joined this treaty to take the necessary steps to do so to contribute to the realization of world peace and security.

Mr President: The issue of the occupation by the Islamic Republic of Iran of the [United Arab] Emirates's islands, namely Greater Tunb, Lesser Tunb, and Abu Musa, remains a source of concern and anxiety not only to the state of the United Arab Emirates but also to the rest of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states at a time when all these states are anxious to establish the best of relations with their neighbor Iran. We urged the Islamic Republic of Iran on several occasions to respond to the invitation made by the United Arab Emirates to solve the issue of the three islands peacefully and through serious bilateral negotiations. However, thus far we have not seen any serious response to these appeals and consequently the option of referring this subject to the International Court of Justice, which is an international body specialized in solving disputes between states, becomes inevitable.

Mr President: The international community took an honorable stand vis-a-vis the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and that constituted an example to be followed to reafirm the credibility of our organization. Therefore the international community should avoid adopting a weak stand in its response to the Serb aggression against the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina because it is this weakness which has prolonged the suffering of the Bosnian people. [passage omitted]

It is must be stressed that any peace plan which is sought or negotiated cannot definitively close the file of this crisis unless the rights of the republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina to sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, within the internationally-recognized borders, are taken into account and unless a distinction is drawn between the aggressor and the victim. It is also important to bring the war criminals to justice to punish them for the crimes they perpetrated against humanity.

We must also hail the praiseworthy efforts made by his excellency President Bill Clinton with a view to reaching a just settlement between the parties to the conflict. We also appreciate the efforts made by his excellency French President Jacques Chirac, to push forward the wheel of cooperation and coordination between the international and Islamic contact groups. We hope that when the situation of the ethnic minorities in Bosnia-Herzegovina is discussed this also includes the other minorities in the Balkans, especially the Albanian minority in the Kosovo region.

Mr President: Somalia is still suffering from a state of instability and political chaos which is often accompanied by acts of violence and bloodshed. Despite all the efforts that were made to take this country out of its hard tribulation these efforts have not so far succeeded in restoring security and stability to this stricken country. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia which has made many efforts to contain the conflict in Somalia and realize national reconciliation between factions and extend a helping hand and provide relief for the Somali people appeals to all Somali factions to resort to logic and reason and place the interest of the Somali people above all other considerations. [passage omitted]

We urge all the Afghan combatant factions to immediately stop the in-fighting and to faithfully abide by their agreements and embark on a period of reconstruction and development of their country to enable Afghanistan to recover their notable place in the international community.

Among the problems which are still shaking Asia is the continuation of the Pakistani-Indian conflict over Jammu-Kashmir for which we think that the best solution is the implementation of the UN resolutions on the subject and the adoption of the path of dialogue and mutual understanding which could eventually lead to the end of this chronic crisis.

While we are talking about the problems of this region, we regret to see that the problem of Nagorno-Karabakh, resulting from the occupation by Armenia of a part of the territory of Azerbaijan, is still awaiting a solution despite all the efforts and mediations made so far. We regard this occupation as a violation of the principle of the impermissibility of the use of force to solve disputes. Therefore Armenia must withdraw its troops from the Azeri territories and take the subject to the negotiating table with a view to reaching a peaceful settlement that would preserve the legitimate rights of the people of Azerbaijan. [passage omitted]

Mr. President: While we are about to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Charter of our Organization the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, being a founder-member of this international Organization, would like to reaffirm its commitment and continued desire to realize the aims contained in the Charter. [passage omitted]

Yemen

Foreign Minister al-Iryani Addresses UN

JN1210113095 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Republic of Yemen last night voiced its support for the efforts seeking to upgrade the mechanisms of the United Nations and its main branches. It welcomed the structural reforms, particularly those related to expanding Security Council membership — an expansion that will accurately reflect facts and developments in international relations and observe fair geographic and demographic representation.

This came in Yemen's speech delivered by Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, at the UN General Assembly's 50th session.

Regarding Middle East developments and the positive steps that have been taken toward reducing tense hotbeds threatening world security and stability, al-Iryani stressed that our country looks forward to the day when the Palestinian people will be able to exercise their rights in full and establish their state on their land, with Jerusalem as its capital. Al-Iryani noted that a just and comprehensive peace will continue to hinge on full Israeli withdrawal from all occupied Arab lands, foremost of which is the Syrian Golan Heights and southern Lebanon, in accordance with UN Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the land-for-peace principle.

Al-Iryani touched on our country's national trends. He stressed that Yemen, having laid the foundations of unity and following the popular victory on the secessionist conspiracy, continues to foster its democratic march represented in political pluralism, respect for human rights, freedom of the press, and economic reforms. He added that these reforms will help Yemen achieve a qualitative leap in the economic life and restructure the national economy so that it can meet our society's needs. This would turn Yemen into a factor of peace and stability in the region and help it carry out a more active role in maintaining world security and stability, he noted.

Al-Iryani expressed hope that the international community will extend further assistance [to Yemen] so that it can rebuild the economic and social structures and overcome the impact of the abortive secessionist attempt. He reviewed the results of our country's foreign policy, which is based on dialogue and resolving issues peacefully. He cited as evidence for this the border agreement with the sisterly Sultante of Oman and the efforts being exerted to resolve the border stand-off with the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through the joint committees and in accordance with the bases and principles stipulated in the memorandum of understanding signed in holy Mecca in February.

Concluding our country's speech, al-Iryani said: Yemen has been and will continue to be part of this international community, carrying out its humane role within the United Nations. It spared no effort in terms of active participation along with the international community in forging world peace and security. Let us make this session a new start to define concepts regarding relations among countries. Let us make our organization a place where all seek judgment.

On the sidelines of the 50th UN session, Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani met with Jordanian Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti and Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf in New York last night. The YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA', said that the meetings dealt with developments on the Arab, regional, and international levels and stressed the importance of restoring Arab solidarity in a manner that will serve the Arab nation's causes and objectives.

Reform Grouping's al-Yadumi Interviewed

MM1310100795 London FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic Oct 95 pp 31-32

[Interview with Muhammad al-Yadumi, secretary general of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, by 'Ali al-Rashid in Sanaa; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Rashid] There is a great deal of talk about the possibility that you might leave the coalition, at the end of its mandate in about a month's time. What are the reasons behind this thinking and how should it be interpreted?

[Al-Yadumi] I believe that when I told some newspapers that the Yemeni Reform Grouping [YRG] is reassessing its experiment in the current two-party coalition and, in the light of this report, would either stay in or leave the coalition, my remarks referred to the content of the coalition document, specifically Clause 19, which gives either coalition side the right to withdraw one year after the establishment of this coalition, with the other side having the right to continue or to form another government if it wants to. Besides, the document stresses that it is not possible to leave the coalition until one year after elections are held. We and the [General People's] Congress [GPC] still have the option until 27 April 1996 to remain in, or leave the coalition. I can confirm that the YRG finds in the coalition experiment an opportunity to serve Yemen and to practice consolidated democratic action in our country. Therefore, thus far and in view of the YRG's achievements, I can say that the YRG, at this point, believes that it is more likely to continue in the coalition than withdraw from it.

[Al-Rashid] Some journalists have indicated that there is a divergence of views between the YRG Shura Council and the YRG Higher Committee on this point. To what extent is this true?

[Al-Yadumi] As you mentioned, these are journalists who have reached these conclusions through their own information. I say however that the Higher Committee is bound by the YRG Shura Council's decisions, and the YRG Shura Council has reaffirmed, in its previous decisions, the need to remain in the coalition. The Higher Committee cannot decide on this matter (to leave the coalition except with a ruling from the Shura Council).

[Al-Rashid] In a previous statement you mentioned that your participation in the coalition had positive and negative elements. Could you please tell us which are the most important?

[Al-Yadumi] The most important positive elements are that the Islamic movement in Yemen is currently the only Islamic movement in the Arab and Islamic arena which participates in government. The YRG's participation is an opportunity to highlight the possibility of coexistence between Islamic movements and regimes, if there are good intentions on both sides. Both will be able to coexist to serve the higher interests of Islam and the peoples in the region. Besides the fact that the coalition experiment promotes coexistence among the political forces in the Yemeni arena, at the same time it will also help to expand the limits of the democratic process in our country.

The second positive element is that we managed, through the coalition, to take our message — namely to promote virtue and repudiate vice — to the person in the street and to the state's leading institutions. Moreover, this participation has led us from talk to action when, as Islamists, we speak about the citizen's concerns and suffering. It has caused us to interact with the Yemeni citizen's problems in a positive way and has shown us many truths to which we were oblivious. There is nothing easier than to say what you want and return to your home, but it is more difficult to translate the words into positive action in real life. Participation is an opportunity to get acquainted with many realities about conditions in the country, and, in addition, has introduced the Islamic movement to the Yemeni people, the Arab Islamic region, and the world. The Islamic movement, through its experiment in participating in government, has proved that it is capable of grasping many national, regional, and international facts and dealing with them so as to contribute something positive in the general interest of Yemen.

[Al-Rashid] You have listed the most important positive aspects, but there is still the question of the negative aspects.

[Al-Yadumi] Among the most important is the fact that the citizen finds it easy to hear about and accept criticism of deteriorating conditions, but finds it difficult to hear that it is not possible to achieve some of what he was promised. In the YRG, we have been running some service ministries, of concern to the citizen at all times, and we have undoubtedly been able to achieve something in these ministries. However, due to some financial obstacles, we have been unable to achieve all our aims or to deliver everything that the citizen expects from the YRG within the coalition government.

[Al-Rashid] Are there any negative aspects as regards the coalition link between you and the Congress?

[Al-Yadumi] Our relations with the Congress are often excellent. There is a divergence of views on some issues, but we often overcome these differences on many issues through direct and continued dialogue.

[Al-Rashid] How do you envisage the future of your relations with your partner [the Congress] and how do you expect them to develop?

[Al-Yadumi] God willing, our relations with our brothers in the GPC will be much better than in the past.

[Al-Rashid] Many people believe that current disagreements between you and the GPC mark the start of something similar to what is happening between the GPC and the Socialist Party. First, could you tell us to what extent this is true, and then what is your assessment of the relationship between you and the GPC within the context of bilateral and coalition relations, in the light of your past coalition and party relations with the Socialist Party?

[Al-Yadumi] I believe this comparison is unfair.... The relationship between the Socialist Party and the GPC in the transitional period and during the recent political crisis was a relationship between two rivals and two parties, each representing a state and an army, hence the power struggle. They worked to remove one another, using the material capabilities available to them. Our relations with the GPC, conversely, are entirely different, in theory and in practice. We interact with our brothers in the GPC with full awareness of the realities in our country. We are keen to continue democratic action and political pluralism in Yemen because any friction between the GPC and YRG would lead to the cancellation of democratic action, which God forbid. Moreover, the YRG is extremely proud of brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and believes that this country requires a leader of his caliber in this phase, in view of his achievements for the Yemeni people before and after the union. All this prompts the YRG to support the brother president's policy and leadership in the Yemeni arena. There are many common denominators between us and the GPC and no fundamental disagreement. We and they are the founders of the coalition, and it would be difficult to imagine any major or fundamental disagreement between the two parties, because both proceed from the same source.

[Al-Rashid] Some people say that the coalition is a kind of shareout of posts. What is your opinion?

[Al-Yadumi] That is untrue, because our presence in the coalition is prompted by reality and is in line with our presence in the current House of Representatives. We are represented in the House of Representatives at a ratio of 1:2 compared with the GPC. A sharing process normally takes place between two equal parties. Besides, even the 1:2 ratio has not been applied fully until now. However, we are not much interested in that. All we are interested in now is the country's interests. All we are interested in is for the two parties to cooperate to extricate the country from the terrible backwardness we are experiencing. The YRG is seeking, in cooperation with the GPC, to build a state of institutions, law and order, justice, and stability in Yemen. I do not believe there is any sharing-out process between us and the GPC.

[Al-Rashid] How would you assess your ministerial participation in the new coalition? Have you achieved something for citizens?

[Al-Yadumi] Without doubt with our participation we have achieved a great deal of what we are seeking to achieve at the ministries run by ministers belonging to our party. However, I hope that the coalition government, as an entity representing the GPC and the YRG, will announce its achievements to enable Yemeni citizens and the quarters watching events in our country to assess the coalition government experiment, in order to benefit from this assessment in the future, whether at the Yemeni, Arab, or Islamic level.

[Al-Rashid] Some people believe that the YRG has lost a considerable part of its popularity as a result of its participation in power or in government, on the grounds of the YRG's failure to provide solutions to eradicate corruption. What is your opinion?

[Al-Yadumi] That is exaggerated and probably is said by quarters with which we differ. The truth is that the YRG's popularity has not been affected. On the contrary, many people have enjoyed the services offered by the coalition government through the Supply, Water, and Electricity Ministry, the Health Ministry, and the Fisheries Ministry. Citizens can see and compare the two-party coalition government under some YRG elements with conditions in the days of the three-party coalition, and even before in the transitional period and in the days of the totalitarian regime before the union.

[Al-Rashid] But what about corruption? Have you managed to offer something to eradicate or limit it?

[Al-Yadumi] We have managed to reduce the level of corruption at the ministries run by us. And we are working, in cooperation with our brothers in the GPC, to reduce this corruption at the other ministries.

[Al-Rashid] Do you believe that the administrative and financial reform program is proceeding as planned and achieving the required success?

[Al-Yadumi] Most regrettably, not as we had hoped.

[Al-Rashid] You were in the opposition for more than two years. Could you tell us the most important changes that have occurred in your party, of which you are secretary general?

[Al-Yadumi] The YRG's participation in the opposition or in power proceeds from the willingness to shoulder national responsibility and contribute to advancing democratic action and introducing the Islamic movement to others, inside and outside the country, through its position in the opposition or government. I can say that the YRG, with the help of Almighty God, has achieved a great deal in this connection.

[Al-Rashid] You said before that Yemen cannot withstand a strong opposition like the YRG. Do you still maintain this view? And what would happen if you were again forced to leave the opposition [to join the government]?

[Al-Yadumi] I continue to say that conditions in our country cannot withstand the YRG's opposition, nor can they withstand the GPC's departure. If we are destined to leave the opposition [and join the government] after the 1997 elections, I believe that the YRG could continue to work alongside the opposition with the same spirit of responsibility in order to safeguard stability and the Yemeni people's prosperity and to encourage all positive initiatives presented by any party entrusted with forming a government and any party that exercises constructive opposition for the sake of Yemen's higher interests and gives precedence to Yemen's interests over its partisan interests.

[Al-Rashid] It is noted that you, the YRG, are targeted more than the coalition (the two parties together) by the opposition press. Why?

[Al-Yadumi] I believe that you would get a better answer if you put that question to them. Just as we do not wish to be asked to define certain positions for the YRG, we do not wish to force others to define positions in our favor or against us. We like to leave others to define their positions — in our favor or against us — in accordance with their convictions.

[Al-Rashid] Do you view that as an attack on you?

[Al-Yadumi] It is unjustifiable criticism. We know who is behind the attack on us.

[Al-Rashid] Talking of the opposition, how would you assess your relations with it at present?

[Al-Yadumi] Our relations with it are cool so far. We hope they will improve through meetings in the stage ahead.

[Al-Rashid] What influential Arab and regional role has the YRG played in Yemeni foreign policy?

[Al-Yadumi] Among the roles played by the YRG at the regional level is its position on the issue of Yemeni-Gulf relations in general and Yemeni-Saudi relations in particular. The YRG — through [its leader] Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Ahmad and through the cooperation of the brother officials in the GPC — was able to defuse the situation and avert a war between us and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. We have always believed that war would not serve the interests of the two fraternal countries, but, rather, would serve the interest of the foreign enemy of the two peoples and the Arab and Islamic nation.

Through our participation in some delegations that went to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia we managed to change the dark picture of the YRG in the minds of those with whom we met, through cordial words and calm dialogue. We affirmed to everyone our credibility as regards laying the foundations of stability in the region, in addition to our complete rejection of all forms of violence. We also managed to stress that it is possible to achieve accord and cooperation between Islamic movements and regimes in Arab and Islamic countries. We encountered a great deal of understanding and admiration for the democratic experiment in Yemen as well as the coalition experiment and the YRG's wisdom and rational position.

[Al-Rashid] Have you encountered international understanding of such an experiment (the Islamic movement's participation with the GPC)? If so, what is the explanation for the claim that there is an international desire to remove the YRG from power?

[Al-Yadumi] There is encouragement for the Yemeni experiment. Other Arab and Islamic countries are also encouraged to follow this experiment, which has proved successful in terms of serving public welfare.

The second aspect is that without doubt some people fear the awakening and the Islamic movements. This fear is the result of the inability of some men of the Islamic awakening to present themselves to others in a reassuring way. This is in addition to the fact that there are negative positions adopted by some regimes in the region toward the Islamic awakening. Thus in order to achieve rapprochement between the Islamic awakening and the regimes, both sides must agree on a compromise, and there should be credibility when dealing with democratic action. Because there are in some parts of the Arab and Islamic scene people who seek to establish democracy in their country, yet it seems difficult for them to accept the outcome. And the men of the Islamic awakening should study their positions and those of others, both objectively and away from emotional reactions. And try to find a serious mechanism through which to deal with others. If everyone — regimes, governments, and parties — manages to secure a serious mechanism like this, I believe it is possible for them to coexist with others by not harming the interests of others. Others too should recognize our interests and the stability of our peoples and countries.

[Al-Rashid] What are the main points on the basis of which you could stay in power or move to the opposition in general?

[Al-Yadumi] Wherever our country's higher interests — which proceed from our Shari'ah — lie, that is where you will find us, God willing.

1 Dead in Ta'izz Governorate 'Personal' Conflict

JN1210210995 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Staff Colonel Mutahhar Rashad al-Masri, the deputy interior minister, has told the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA', that the security agencies in Ta'izz Governorate have managed to end the personal conflict that erupted among some citizens in al-Makhlaf area, in Shar'ab, Ta'izz Governorate which left one person dead and four injured.

The brother deputy interior minister said three people responsible for stirring up the conflict were arrested and they are being interrogated. The security agencies, he said, are pursuing the fugitives to arrest, and bring them to justice.

Col. Mutahhar al-Masri reaffirmed that the Interior Ministry will take severe measures against all those who try to [words indistinct].

Brother 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad 'Ali 'Uthman, Ta'izz governor, has denied any political nature to the events that occurred in Shar'ab area. He stressed that the case is a criminal one. In a statement to the newspaper AL-THAWRAH published today, he said the conflict was over a plot of land among relatives. The conflict was contained and the suspects were referred to the public prosecutors office for interrogation.

In a related development, a responsible source at the Interior Ministry stressed that the Ministry continues its campaign to arrest and deport all foreign elements that entered the country through illegal ways and that are staying in the country in violation of the law, as well as the suspect and fanatical elements that carry out acts that harm our country's relations with its sisterly and friendly states. He stressed that Yemen renounces and will ceaselessly fight all forms of extremism. He said Yemen will not accept on its territory any extremist from any country or nationality and will not allow anybody to carry out acts on the Yemeni territory that will harm the security and stability of any Arab, Muslim, or foreign country.

He stressed that the security agencies will continue their efforts to fight extremism and arrest all the elements that disrupt the society's security, stability, and tranquility.

Ekeus: Regime 'Grossly Cheating' on Warheads

AU1210122695 Hamburg STERN in German
12 Oct 95 pp 230-232

[Report by Mario R. Dederichs: "Lethal Danger for Millions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] When Saddam Husayn's son-in-law and armament head Husayn Kamil Hasan defected from Iraq to Jordan, Baghdad outdid the defector with revelations. For the first time Iraq admitted that it had produced bacteriological weapons carrying bacteria such as anthrax that were ready for use. A total of 600,000 pages of secret documents that had allegedly been destroyed in 1991, were handed over to Swedish diplomat Rolf Ekeus, who should enforce disarmament in Iraq on behalf of the United Nations.

The UN emissary was amused to learn from Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz how his government was "shocked" that the renegade had been able to hide the evidence.

Yet during his most recent visit last week, the Swede could no longer be amused. Ekeus told STERN: "The moment of openness is over. They are now denying again what they admitted in August. They are grossly cheating again":

— Instead of 100, the Iraqis now claim to have produced — and completely destroyed after the Gulf War — only 75 bacteriological and chemical warheads for their Al-Husayn missiles, but do not produce any evidence.

— Baghdad is trying to maintain is bacteriological weapons program and is refusing to give information on the whereabouts of anthrax cultures, which can remain "virulent" for decades even at room temperature — a potential danger for millions of people.

— 17 tonnes of fluid culture mediums for the breeding of killer bacteria have vanished — they are said to have been stolen "by the mob" during the Shi'ite rising in 1991 — simultaneously from dozens of heavily guarded laboratories.

— Iraq admitted having "sufficient amounts" of chemicals such as choline for the production of 1 tonne of VX nerve gas; yet, Ekeus's commission estimates that Iraq is storing up to 400 tonnes of chemical weapons ready to be used in a war, and that the components of these substances are mixed only shortly before they are used.

Ekeus wants to maintain the economic sanctions against Iraq as a "strong means to exert pressure." The sanctions are costing the country $15 billion in lost oil export revenues per year alone. Ekeus noted that the selection of secret documents that were handed over are proof of the "ambition to restore the armament capacities and use them for political purposes. The Iraqis want to keep those production documents and blueprints that make the production of arms of mass destruction possible in the future. This aspect is making us nervous."

The UN Commission received most information through its own detective work and a control system consisting of more than 100 cameras and some 15 monitoring devices installed in former Iraqi armament plants. That way it turned out that Iraq was recently producing components for missile engines and banned chemicals again.

UN investigators also discovered a first track leading to the extremely secret bacteriological weapons program: 40 tonnes of fluid culture mediums, bought mainly in Germany and Switzerland, seemed to be exorbitant amounts for "medical research purposes," as which they were classified. The acquisition of such large amounts was blamed on the miscalculations of a stupid health minister. The United Nations does not disclose the names of the companies that supplied the pharmaceuticals to ensure their cooperation. Said one of Ekeus' aides: "We are covering up for small-scale gangster so that we can catch the big fish."

According to the UN Commission, Iraq's bacteriological-weapons program was a "hundred times more dangerous" than the thousands of chemical bombs it produced. A total of 191 warheads carrying bacteria and chemicals were deployed at two air bases ready for action — 166 for aircraft bombs and 25 for Al-Husayn missiles with ranges of more than 1,500 km.

According to the United Nations, there were 113 weapons carrying botulin, 60 carrying anthrax, and 18 aflatoxin. Anthrax eats up the lung. If dropped from the air, these bacteria are able to kill people within a radius of many kilometers.

The secret plant at Salman Pak, some 30 km southwest of Baghdad, served as a center for the bacteriological-weapons program. "Salman Pak was an important place for advancing the entire program," Ekeus emphasized. "Research and development were done here, the actual production at Al-Hakam." As opposed to Salmon Pam, this extensive plant in the western desert never became a target of the bombings. And while western firms were also involved in the construction of Salmon Pam or supplied material, Baghdad kept all foreigners away from Al-Hakam.

Iraq even installed special western equipment in the bogus plant only to dismantle it afterwards and put it up again with its own personnel in Al-Hakam. Ekeus's team became aware of the desert laboratory because expensive ventilation systems, which are usually used for bacteriological laboratories, had been seen there.

The slowly killing bacteriological weapons were tried out on animals, both in Salman Pak and Al-Hakam. Witnesses recall the howling of tortured dogs. In the summer, the special UN commission also discovered "extremely abominable" (Ekeus) videos showing experiments involving rabbits, monkeys, sheep, and donkeys. So far there is no information that people who handled the bacteriological weapons were harmed; yet, it is still not known what happened in the weapons center of Muthanna, north of Baghdad, where the warheads were filled.

According to a UN report the production of chemical weapons there led to "serious health problems" among workers, who often handled the poisonous substances without protective clothing. Large stretches of land are still contaminated.

As the murderous scope of the Iraqi program of mass destruction becomes clearer, fear is growing again among Iraqi's neighbors of a future with the political survivor, Saddam Husayn — and support is also growing for Ekeus. His 250-head commission in New York and Baghdad even remains unaffected by the cuts of the insolvent international organization.

In return the stoic Swede promises: "We will not rest until we find out everything about all bacteriological and chemical weapons. That is a question of life and death for millions of people in the region." In many Iraqi military and weapons researchers he did not only discover a deeply rooted "culture of secrecy," but also a bizarre faith in the future: "For them the war is not over yet."

Kurdish Parties Agree To 'Bury Their Differences'

LD1110230195 Tehran IRNA in English 2240 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 11, IRNA — After five days of talks under the auspices of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the two main Kurdish factions of Iraq have agreed to bury their differences and safeguard the territorial integrity of Iraq.

In a joint statement issued here this evening by Sami Abdur Rahman of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) and Fouad Massoumi of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), the outcome of the talks was termed as positive with the participants lauding the efforts of Iran to help restore peace and stability in northern Iraq. The statement, a copy of which was made available to IRNA, declared the city of Arbil, northeastern Iraq, as a safe haven to be cleared of all weapons.

It also focused on distrubution of customs and other revenues in northern Iraq.

The statement stressed on holding local parliamentary elections local and running the administration of Iraqi Kurdistan with the cooperation of other parties and representatives of other ethnic groups of the region.

The two rivals also agreed that a neutral delegation should monitor the implementiont of the agreement reached in Tehran.

It said the PUK and KDP would meet in the near future under the auspices of Iran to sort out the remaining issues.

Iran for its part epxressed concern over the meddling of outsiders in the region which has led to tension and instability. Tehran believes that regional provlems should be resolved by regional states.

Iran took the Kurdish mediation efforts in line with its policy of respect for the territorial integrity of Iraq.

'Text' of Communique

NC1210165195 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1516 GMT 12 Oct 95

["Text of joint press communique" issued by the PUK and KDP following their talks in Tehran on 11 October — read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] The two main Iraqi Kurdish parties—the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] and the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP]—have held talks to patch up their differences and to restore a normal situation in Iraqi Kurdistan. The talks were held under the auspices of the Islamic Republic of Iran between 5 and 9 October 1995.

The two sides lauded the efforts and peaceful initiatives the Islamic Republic of Iran has embarked upon since March and until this meeting. They also praised the other efforts made on this matter. The talks agenda contained the following basic topics and problems for which solutions must be worked out:

1. To declare the township of Irbil secure and free of arms;
2. [Word indistinct] of customs and other revenues in the region;
3. To convene the regional Kurdistan National Council;
4. To set up a new administration with a broad base containing other parties and representatives of the other ethnic groups in the region;

5. To normalize the situation in all areas of Iraqi Kurdistan;
6. To hold elections in the future; and
7. To form a neutral Iraqi commission to follow up on the implementation of the comprehensive agreement, which will hopefully be ratified by both sides.

The talks dealt in-depth with all these topics and achieved tangible progress on the road to working out reasonable and just solutions to these topics that will serve the interest of the people of Kurdistan and the people of Iraq in general.

[Words indistinct] for which no solutions could be achieved during this round of talks. The two sides pledged to consult with their leaderships and to hold further talks soon under Iran's auspices with the aim of finding a comprehensive agreement that will achieve the stability and peace our people deserve.

The two sides stressed the need for Iraq's unity and for the protection of border security of the neighboring countries of Turkey, Syria, and Iran.

[Signed] Dr. Fu'ad Ma'sum, member of the PUK's political bureau; Dr. Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, member of the KDP's political bureau; on 11 October 1995

'Immediate Visa' Offered to Referendum Guests

JN1210114295 Baghdad INA in English 1115 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, Oct 12, INA—IRAQI NEWS AGENCY (INA) learned that the Jordanian authorities issued its instructions to all concerned parties to offer facilities for all Iraq's guests who would attend the referendum by giving them an immediate visa.

Meanwhile, tens of parties heads, MP's, political personalities, journalists and correspondents are pouring on Baghdad to cover the process of the popular referendum.

Saddam Receives Allegiance Cable From Students

JN1210210295 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 12 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leader President Saddam Husayn has received a cable from students of the preparatory, intermediate, and elementary schools who are below the age of 18. The students renewed their allegiance and absolute loyalty to his excellency in defense of great Iraq against the forces of evil and aggression.

The cable, sent to his excellency after gatherings were held on their school seats, reads: Knowing that the Constitution prevents us from participating in the general popular referendum on Sunday due to our ages, we have found another formula to express our opinion and love.

We have thus decided, through our federation, the Iraqi Students National Federation, to hold student gatherings in all preparatory, intermediate, and elementary schools, so our ages cannot prevent us from declaring our loyalty to the leader who has constantly been with us, who has shown us the same compassion fathers show to their sons, who has painted a bright image for our future, and who has poured generous offers on us which alleviated our burdens and prompted us to make further efforts, perseverance, excellence, and success.

We have chanted your name, O Our Leader and Compassionate Father. Our chants rose high to the sky, so everyone will hear our unified and true voice. On the day of the general popular referendum, the enemies as well as the friends will hear the voice of the one Iraq chanting your name and renewing allegiance to your excellency, O Our Beloved Leader. Yes, yes to leader Saddam Husayn. Yes, yes to great Iraq.

Commentary Views U.S. Remarks on Referendum

JN1310091495 Baghdad Mother of Battles Radio in Arabic 1830 GMT 12 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] The historic, distinguished popular festivity will start in less than 72 hours. It is a unique festivity in the history of Iraq and the Arab nation. Our Iraqi people insist on making this day a great national and pan-Arab day in which they will assume the responsibility of confronting the enemies in a manner befitting the great Iraqi people, which is a brilliant example in terms of sacrifice, generosity, patience, and ambitions.

Prior to the great democratic festival, the U.S. Administration expressed its dismay and frustration when Nicholas Burns, U.S. State Department official spokesman, alleged the referendum process is falsified. Thus he passed a biased and unbalanced prejudgment, stressing the great frustration of the imperialist and Zionist circles due to the mujahid leadership's decision, the implicit cohesion between this leadership and the Iraqi people, and the increasing popular Arab support which shocked the hostile circles and caused them to lose what remained of their sanity.

Regardless of the U.S. Administration's prejudgment four days before the referendum, our people in Iraq, as is known, do not need a certificate from the U.S. Administration or any other party confirming their integrity and patriotism. Nevertheless, the very early

U.S. reaction is an explicit and frenzied recognition of the patriotism of our people and the independence of Iraq and the Iraqis against the will of the ugly American.

As the official spokesman of the Iraqi Ministry of Culture and Information said, the problem of the U.S. Administration is that it deals with the regimes of capitulation, surrender, and disgrace and it becomes terrified and is driven crazy by the honorable and independent world leaders. Here lies the problem of America with the leadership of mujahid Saddam Husayn.

It seems that the U.S. Administration, which is caught in the frenzy of tailoring the world and its leaders according to its interests, is terrified because a leader emerged who said no to it. Which rejection is greater than that which was spelled out by mujahid Saddam Husayn to America and its evil allies?

The Iraqis are readying themselves for the great day which will bring the good omen, a glorious day, on which the banner of God is great will be raised in the best and most shining manifestations of democracy. This is so because this democracy originated from a glorious and genuine history and the world's first civilization. This is the democracy of constitutional legitimacy, and not the democracy of parliaments dominated by money and the Zionist influence. This is a cause of pride for Iraq, the Arab nation, and all the free and honest people in the world.

Kuwaiti POW's Reportedly Transferred to Kirkuk

LD1210213595 Tehran IRNA in English
2102 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abadab, Khozestan Prov., Oct. 12, IRNA — The Iraqi regime transferred the Kuwaiti prisoners of war, previously kept in Baghdad, to Kirkuk last week, said the Voice of Revolutionary Iraq.

The radio, monitored here, quoting the sources close to the Iraq's security bureau, said the prisoners were taken to Kirkuk, northern Iraq, by camouflaged buses.

According to the Iraqi sources, the regime took such a measure to keep the prisoners away from the foreign reporters who are in Iraq to give the coverage of the presidential elections, to be held next Sunday.

Thousands of Kuwaiti nationals are held as hostages by Iraqi regime as claimed by the Kuwaiti Government.

Envoy Addresses U.S. Cultural Week Seminar

NC1210153795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1350 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 12 Oct (MENA)—Ambassador Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the Arab League, has said that Iraq seconds the Arab Code of Honor presented by President Husni Mubarak in his address marking the 50th anniversary of the Arab League on 22 March. Najm added that his country also endorses any efforts that are aimed at achieving Arab solidarity and unity within the context of the spirit and charter of the Arab League.

In a lecture he delivered at the American University in Cairo today as part of U.S. cultural week, Nabil Najm underlined the Egyptian position and the Egyptian officials' statements that reject any interference in Iraq's domestic affairs and call for ending the Iraqi people's suffering. He reiterated that Egypt's stance is characterized by rationalism, reality, and far-sightedness.

Touching on the embargo imposed on the Iraqi people, Nabil Najm said that Iraq seriously cooperated with the United Nations for the sake of implementing the UN resolutions. But the UN Security Council started to avoid implementing its resolutions with the aim of destroying Iraq, as he put it. He added that the embargo's motives completely collapsed after Iraq had fully honored all the demands for lifting the embargo.

Ambassador Nabil Najm described the Security Council's decision to allow Iraq to sell some of its oil as unjust and unfair.

Alluding to the issue of the Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq, Najm said that there are no Kuwaiti prisoners in Iraq. He said there are missing people, adding that Iraq is cooperating with the International Committee of the Red Cross to search for those who are missing.

At the end of the lecture, Nabil Najm called for lifting the embargo which is causing harsh suffering to the Iraqi people. He said that more than 1 million Iraqi children have died due to the lack of medication.

Rabin Heckled, Prevented From Speaking at Festival

TA1110155695 (Internet) Shomron News Service in English 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Rabin received boos when he arrived at the "Event" held at the Wingate Institute. The activity was attended by approximately 15,000 people, all English speakers. The activity was sponsored by all major Anglo-Saxon aliya organizations. Prime Minister Rabin and Binyamin Netanyahu were both invited. Netanyahu declined the invitation.

When Rabin attempted to speak, the crowd would not permit him to get a word out. They held up signs and shouted down the Prime Minister. Security forces had to contain a small number of the participants.

The Prime Minister stated that Israel will continue to accept immigrants from English speaking lands. "I am embarrassed because they represent English speaking countries which are well-mannered" added Rabin. He called the crowd's reaction "racist".

[(Internet) IRIS News Update in English on 11 October carries an "eyewitness account" of the incident in which Prime Minister Rabin was booed off the stage and prevented from speaking. IRIS [Information Regarding Israel's Security] notes the incident was reported on Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network and Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network on 10 October. The following is the text of the eyewitness account:

["Today at 'THE EVENT' Yitzhaq Rabin was virtually booed off the stage while he attempted to address the crowd. THE EVENT is a huge celebration of English speaking aliyah, organized by all English speaking olim (new immigrants) organizations such as AACI, BOS [not further identified] etc. Thousands of Israelis from English speaking countries spent the day at arts and crafts fairs, sports fields and eating at a variety of cafes and stands.

["Rabin showed up at around 4:15 PM and the crowd was quite large as can be expected. The crowd was not organized in any fashion and there were no representatives from political parties obviously present (except Rabin and Absorption Minister Ya'ir Tzaban).

["The moment Rabin stepped out of his car, many in the crowd started booing and yelling slogans such as 'The people didn't sign' — referring to the Oslo 2 accord, 'Rabin Go Home', 'Rabin Resign', and 'Bibi, Bibi' referring to the Likud leader [Benyamin Netanyahu]. To be sure, there were Rabin supporters in the crowd, but they were in the minority and were barely heard at all.

["Literally, not one word Rabin said could be heard. His face was as red as a fire truck. The crowd eventually organized itself into loud, aggressive chants against Rabin.

["The crowd accompanied him to his limo and continued to yell 'Go Home' etc. It was exhilarating for people to know that at least once it was clear Rabin is not as popular as the media makes it seem. It was also nice to know we wouldn't get beaten up as we fear at so many other protests because there were no horses, and the police were exceptionally controlled (as was the crowd).

["Rabin continued in his car to the JERUSALEM POST sukkah. It was a much quieter welcome there, until many began to yell the same chants from only a few minutes earlier. Again, there was no way to ignore it.

["On two occasions someone said 'Go back to America', I thought this was ironic as the whole day was a celebration of our communities 'being here'. I don't see why tax paying, army serving citizens such as myself and others must choose between opposing the government or 'going back to America'. I doubt many said such things to the well respected left wing opposition movement members. Unfortunately I think such statements point to the idea of democracy being more of a slogan here, rather than a real way of running our political culture.

["The loud, aggressive yet non-violent protest today maybe one of the contributions we Anglo-olim make to Israel, our home."]

Rabin Cancels 2d Appearance, 'Fearing' Heckling

TA1310054895 (Internet) 'Arutz 7 News Service in English 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Rabin cancelled his appearance at the Saharena celebrations in Ashqelon today, fearing that he would again be heckled and prevented from speaking. This follows his attempted speech on Tuesday at a gathering of immigrants from English-speaking countries at Wingate Institute, during which he was repeatedly booed until he left in the middle of his speech. Rabin said this morning that demonstrations by the right do not faze him, nor is he calling upon the left to initiate demonstrations in his support.

Source Notes Growing Attempts To Harm Ministers

TA1210140195 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Oct 95 pp 1, 19

[Report by Alex Fishman]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Shin Bet's VIP security unit was significantly augmented in past months in view of the concern that Jewish and Arab radicals will try to harm central political figures, including Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

As of now, there is no concrete information about any plans to assassinate the prime minister. Senior defense establishment sources note, however, that the number of attempts by extreme right-wing elements physically to harm ministers and the prime minister has grown recently. They claim that these phenomena dictate a tighter watch over central figures.

For several months now the Shin Bet has been also guarding opposition leader Binyamin Netanyahu, following indications that Arab extremists were planning to harm him. [passage omitted]

Defense establishment elements note that at present, danger lies merely in the atmosphere, which is liable to generate acts of violence against political figures. The elements are very concerned about the extreme pronouncements made in certain circles, which, they believe, may eventually spark acts of madness.

Rabin Blames Likud for Violence; Netanyahu Denies

TA1210141395 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The extreme right-wing's struggle against the government has recently taken on a somewhat violent nature. Security has been stepped up around Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and other cabinet ministers out of concern for the possibility of an attack by right-wing activists. The prime minister told IDF Radio today that he does not fear for himself during anti-government demonstrations. While those who attempt to harm me physically may constitute a radical minority, Rabin said, these people draw their inspiration from the Likud leadership. Our correspondent Netan'el Semrik is here with a report on Rabin's remarks as well as the Likud's reaction.

[Begin recording] [Semrik] Rabin does not fear for his own personal safety, even after his and other ministers' recent close encounters with the raised fists of demonstrators. I do not intend to run away and no one will silence me, Rabin asserted this morning to IDF Radio. Speaking as both prime minister of Israel as well as chairman of the Labor party, Rabin said, I view the Likud as responsible for inspiring the extremists.

[Rabin] With regard to the background of all this, the Likud cannot shirk its responsibility for creating a background of heated verbal violence, the kind of which we have not witnessed for a long time. It is enough to listen to the speeches of some Knesset members [MK's] or witness their public pronouncements and participation in demonstrations, which even if not organized by the Likud, display slogans and other trappings that are anathema to the Israeli public.

[Semrik] Opposition chairman Binyamin Netanyahu reacted by accusing Rabin of hypocrisy.

[Netanyahu] These are completely baseless claims which totally contravene reality. I both publicly and privately condemn any manifestation of violence in general, particularly against Israeli cabinet ministers, as well as certain slogans which have no room in Israeli politics. The hypocrisy of the prime minister's attempt to blame the Likud, which is a solid, serious, and responsible party, for the acts or to hold it responsible for the actions of a lunatic fringe who are at the margins of any large political camp — and we are talking about a very big camp here — is totally unacceptable.

[Semrik] Likud official Tzahi Hanegbi today denied any connection between his party and the radicals. These are political hitchhikers who try to steal the show, Hanegbi claimed, calling the demonstrator who held up a poster of Rabin in a Nazi uniform a jerk. Nevertheless, Labor and Likud officials continue to trade accusations. [end recording]

Right-Wing Calls For 'National Congress'

TA1210191495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 12 Oct 95

[Nitzan Hen video report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Representatives of all right-wing extraparliamentary movements gathered in Jerusalem today and called for putting the prime minister and foreign minister on trial for betraying the Jewish people. The participants decided to organize a national Jewish congress soon to formulate the principles on which they will act to carry out civil revolt and the establishment of what they called a new Jewish state. Nitzan Hen reports:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified participant] All the people of Israel are being led like sheep to the slaughter.

[Hen] The Zo Artzenu version of The Silence of the Lambs this morning disturbed traffic in the center of Jerusalem for only several minutes. Dozens of protesters, accompanied by sheep, marched in the center of the city and tried to block the road. We will not follow Rabin like sheep to the slaughter, they shouted at the police. There were very few who agreed to denounce physical attacks on the prime minister. [passage omitted]

Not far from this demonstration, all the extraparliamentary right-wing movements convened at the Chief Rabbinate's headquarters for a Jewish national rally. [passage omitted]

Under the covenant drafted for the gathering, all Jews will be called on to form a values-based union with Eretz Yisra'el which will also have practical aspects.

[Qiryat Arba' settlement leader Elyaqim Ha'etzni] We plan to issue 10 commandments to the soldiers and defense establishment: Not to be PLO collaborators: that is, not to accompany PLO officials, even if such orders are issued; not to safeguard them, not to participate in joint patrols. To treat it as occupied France treated collaboration with the Nazis. If we break the law then put us on trial. [passage omitted] [end recording]

MK 'Azran Establishes New Political Movement

TA1210142595 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Oct 95 p 18

[Report by Dov Elboim]

[FBIS Translated Text] Yahadut Ne'emana [True Judaism] is the name of the new political movement established yesterday by Knesset Member [MK] Yosef 'Azran, formerly of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim].

MK 'Azran announced his new movement at the reunion of Marrakech-born Jews. He said the movement would become a political party prior to the elections and represent an alternative to SHAS.

'Azran estimated that he would receive at least two Knesset seats in the coming elections. "A great many bodies and organizations have pledged to join the movement, and I have also received a lot of love and support from people in general," he explained.

'Azran will be able to establish a new political party only after he resolves the legal problems entailed in his secession from SHAS.

Peres on Syria, 'Terrorism,' Likud Incitement

TA1310080995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0505 GMT 13 Oct 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by anchorman Me'ir Einstein; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Einstein] Good morning to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Einstein] Does Israel hold Syria responsible for yesterday's incident in Lebanon, in which an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] officer and a soldier were killed, and another seven soldiers were wounded?

[Peres] This attack was carried out by Hizballah. Syria admits that it does not prevent such attacks. Clearly, we have a problem with Syria.

[Einstein] Do we expect Syria to do something to prevent this kind of Hizballah activity?

[Peres] We would like Syria to do something but I doubt very much whether this will in fact happen.

[Einstein] Does this mean that we will continue to doubt that Damascus will do anything as long as the Syrian track is deadlocked?

[Peres] Yes. At this stage the talks are deadlocked. The Syrian president wants everyone to dance to his tune. This is very difficult. Al-Asad wants us to first of all accept his demands and then negotiate. He also wants the negotiations to conform to what I would call his government's logic. We have experience with negotiations. We have already reached four or five agreements. We know how to successfully handle and conclude them; or in other words, to reach an agreement. We must be guided by the experience we have accumulated and not follow the rather strange assumptions of the Syrian leadership.

[Einstein] Mr. Peres, after yesterday's attack and the series of incidents in south Lebanon, is there any room to change Israel's policy in south Lebanon or is there really nothing we can do right now?

[Peres] Look, the real change will only come when we reach a comprehensive peace agreement in the Middle East. However, even then look at what is happening around the world, in Paris, Oklahoma, and Japan. The problem with today's terrorism is that it possesses modern weapons. Terrorism is an old phenomenon; however, explosive charges, suicide terrorists, and remotely controlled devices are modern technology's contribution to old-fashioned terrorism. The combination of these two elements pose a very difficult problem for all the nations of the world and a supreme international and technical effort is undoubtedly called for in order to expunge the threat of terrorism.

[Einstein] You are scheduled to meet Yasir 'Arafat on Sunday [15 October]. Meanwhile, 'Arafat is complaining that Israel is violating the interim agreement. We have heard that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin does not take 'Arafat's complaints very seriously. What is your view on the matter?

[Peres] I do not think that Israel violated any of its commitments. As for the redeployment, we said that it would start within 10 days of the agreement. What actually happened was that the agreement was endorsed by the Knesset between 5 and 6 October. On 6 October we telephoned 'Arafat and set up a meeting for 7 October in order to discuss the timetable and dates of the redeployment. It was not even 'Arafat's initiative. We met, and I believe that he has misunderstood some things. We started redeploying in four Arab villages and anyone who wanted to could have watched it on television. We said that as for Janin, which is the first district we intend to withdraw from, the redeployment would end on 17 November. 'Arafat complained that this will take 47 days. First of all, when we say that the redeployment will be completed by 17 November it means that we have to begin redeploying several weeks earlier. If you look at the timetable several weeks prior to 17 November, you will see that the IDF has a very busy schedule.

[Einstein] Mr. Peres, to conclude this interview I would like you to comment on the deep political divide that has emerged among the public following the agreement with the Palestinians. Do you remember such a period of public dissent?

[Peres] Yes, for example at the time of the reparations agreement with Germany when protestors hurled stones at the Knesset and threatened to leave their homes and families. I also remember that in 1947 and 1948, at the time of the Biltmore Plan, both right- wing and left-wing activists said that the country's territorial integrity was more important than establishing the state. They said that the establishment of the state could wait whereas territorial integrity was an eternal value. Ben-Gurion replied that the country was already divided and the question was whether it would be divided with a Jewish state or without one. The country is still divided today. It was not divided by the agreement. It was not the agreement that turned Gaza and Nabulus into Arab cities. Gaza is Arab and Nabulus is inhabited by Arabs. That is a clear, long-standing, historic fact. The question is what kind of fabric of daily life we will have here? Will it be a succession of bombs, stones, bitter hatred, hostility, and terrorism? Or will we make a serious attempt to foster mutual coexistence. Some people question the possibility of coexistence with the Palestinians. I have a very simple reply to this: today there are approximately one million Arabs in Israel. We have no problems living with them. We have to make a serious attempt to make peace.

[Einstein] But how do we make peace among the Jews?

[Peres] What do you mean. There is peace among the Jewish people. There are some Jews who want to do away with democracy, some Jews who want to topple the state's institutions. So what do you want us to do? To kneel down to them?

[Einstein] Do you see room for a dialogue between the Likud and the Labor Party? For example, a meeting between Binyamin Netanyahu and the prime minister.

[Peres] We can have a dialogue in the Knesset if they stop interrupting our speeches and permit the kind of dialogue in the Knesset that is customary in other parliaments. What is the Knesset for, after all? So people can interrupt and heckle others? The place to conduct an orderly, political, continuous, open, and clear dialogue is the Knesset. But look who is responsible for the highly organized disturbances in the Knesset. What is all this talk about? Let them permit orderly debates in the Knesset, where people also listen and do not just wag their tongues; where there are manners as well as laws. Otherwise, it will be very difficult to maintain a democracy.

[Einstein] Are you saying that the Knesset is the source of incitement for street violence?

[Peres] The Knesset sets a very bad example. Look at what happens there. Some people disgrace the most important institution in the country by acting like clowns. Let us first of all start there. I do not understand. If we launch a dialogue outside the Knesset, then what do we need a parliament for? If Binyamin Netanyahu is so eager to talk, let him and his colleagues permit the holding of a respectable and worthy debate in the Knesset. Any member of the Israeli public who wants to can follow the proceedings on Israel Television's Channel 3. Let that be the forum for dialogue. But they will not permit this.

[Einstein] Thank you, Foreign Minister Peres.

Paper Reports al-Asad 'Disappointed' With Rabin

TA1310113595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
13 Oct 95 p A1

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad is disappointed with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and doubts the Israeli seriousness and determination to advance the peace negotiations with Syria. Al-Asad believes that Rabin finds it hard to decide on a full Golan Heights withdrawal or is perhaps incapable of making such a decision, according to a report that reached Jerusalem yesterday on al-Asad's meeting with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak in Damascus this week.

According to the report, al-Asad told Mubarak that Rabin declared his opposition to a Golan withdrawal prior to the 1992 elections, while the Likud did not regard the plateau as part of Eretz Yisra'el.

Nevertheless, al-Asad made it clear that he would not halt the negotiations with Israel and would continue the contacts with the U.S. Administration.

In his meeting with Mubarak, al-Asad expressed the belief that Secretary of State Warren Christopher would go to Damascus at the end of the month within the framework of his Middle East tour after he attends the Amman business conference. Al-Asad said he believes the Christopher visit would be a good opportunity to advance the peace negotiations. He is also pleased with the telephone link he has with President Clinton.

The State Department spokesman announced yesterday that Christopher would not come to Jerusalem and Damascus after the Amman conference. Sources in Washington said that the cancellation of the shuttle mission is not linked to matters of substance. He said that Christopher's timetable does not permit him to remain in the region since he must return immediately to Washington to participate in the conference on the future of Bosnia.

The Syrian president spoke at length about his opposition to early warning stations on the Golan after an Israeli withdrawal, saying that under no circumstances would he agree to the presence of Israeli soldiers on Syrian soil.

Following the meeting, Egypt arrived at the assessment that a new starting point must be found for Israeli-Syrian talks until an understanding is reached on the early warning stations. Egypt made it clear to Israel that no Arab element can convince Syria to agree to the presence of Israeli soldiers on the Golan Heights.

Report Says Syria Using Golan Issue as 'Pretext'

TA1210154695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Jerusalem has received a report on the talks the Egyptian leadership held with President al-Asad in Damascus. According to the report, the Syrians went back on their readiness to continue their talks with Israel after they learned that Israel is unprepared to accept their demand to use the term full withdrawal.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the report, which came from Egypt, said that the Syrians hinted that their firm opposition to the establishment of an early warning ground station on the Golan Heights is just a pretext. The report also said that the Syrians claim that on the eve of the 1992 Knesset elections the Likud said it does not regard the Golan Heights as part of Eretz Yisra'el, while Prime Minister Rabin raises defense demands which Syria cannot accept.

Damascus Said Waiting To Sign Pact With Likud

TA1210142295 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 12 Oct 95 p 5

[Report by Rome-based correspondent Yosi Bar and news agencies]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "The Syrians are waiting for the Likud to come to power to sign a peace treaty with Israel," a Syrian source said in Rome.

According to the source, "the Syrian people would have greater trust in a Likud government. So far, the best peace agreement —the one with Egypt — was made by the Likud. That peace agreement has proven itself over a long period. Al-Asad's remarks were merely a reflection of the trend prevailing among Syrian leaders as well as the people."

The source further asserted that the Syrians believe the Israeli- Palestinian Oslo B accord is "a fragile agreement that will not endure real-life trials." A Likud government is seen by the Syrians as one that can stand firmly behind any agreement it signs, while "the incumbent government, although it wants peace, is not sufficiently strong to guard it."

The Government of Israel yesterday voiced its surprise at President al-Asad's noting a day earlier that the Israeli elections do not interest him. "It is a very surprising statement," Government Press Office Director Uri Dromi said. "Does President al-Asad really believe he will attain an agreement with the Likud more easily?" Dromi noted that the right-wing opposition in Israel is against the very principle of withdrawal from the Golan in exchange for peace, a principle which has been endorsed by the current government. [passage omitted]

Peres To Meet 'Arafat on IDF Redeployment Plans

TA1210170195 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1600 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] [passage omitted] It was decided that Foreign Minister Peres will schedule a meeting with 'Arafat in the coming days and explain that under the accord the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] redeployment in the territories will be completed on the eve of the Palestinian elections. The meeting participants also agreed that the redeployment from six Arab towns in the West Bank will be completed by the end of December. The pullback from parts of Hebron will be contingent upon completion of the bypass road expected in early April.

Rabin: Women Not Freed Over 'Misunderstanding'

TA1310062095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says a misunderstanding was responsible for the fact that Israel promised Palestinian negotiators to release all the women detainees, but then refused to let four of them leave jail. Speaking last night to reporter Alan Ben-'Ami, the prime minister said that he cannot promise anything on freeing the women detainees in a future prisoner release.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] I can't promise anything that is not in accordance to the law in Israel. In the law, there are either the president that has the right to pardon and only he can pardon those who were sentenced in Israeli courts, civilian courts; in the military courts in the territories, the authority to pardon is the general in command of the Central or the Southern Commands. Therefore, they have to make up their minds, bearing in mind the policy of the government, but also the merits of the issue. As you know, the cabinet decided, the government decided, not to release terrorists that were involved in killing or seriously wounding Israelis.

[Ben-'Ami] Then why did you sign an agreement saying that all women prisoners would be released?

[Rabin] There were some misunderstandings about the president's intentions, as a result of the talk between President Mubarak and President Weizman, and we were told what was proved to be not correct during the talks in Taba. Therefore, I believe the misunderstanding was not related to the negotiations, but to misunderstanding or different interpretation of the talks between the presidents of Egypt and Israel. [end recording]

King Says Opponents of Peace 'Living in Past'

JN1210124195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Oct 95 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (J.T.)—His Majesty King Husayn on Tuesday described opponents of peace and normalisation of relations with Israel as those who are "living in the past and are trying to pull us so that we do not move forward" after nearly a half-century of conflict.

The King reaffirmed his determination to pursue normalisation of relations with Israel to "make up for all the years that have passed, the loss and pain that we lived through, so that we can lay strong foundations for building a better future for this country."

"The goal is to move from where we are to where we are supposed to be," King Husayn said.

Addressing the Royal Medical Services (RMS), the King implicitly criticised the Jordan Medical Association which opposes normalisation of relations with Israel.

"It's probably wrong to force any physician to join the association and I wonder if such a regulation is constitutional or democratic," King Husayn told RMS officers at the King Husayn Medical Centre.

He said the association's task was confined to improving services and performance rather than "getting involved in the labyrinth of politics."

King Husayn said he will ask a legal panel to determine the constitutionality of compulsory membership in associations for al practising professionals.

King Husayn praised the efforts of the RMS and pledged to provide the services with all that it requires for its further development.

King Husayn, who was accompanied by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, said that being part of the Jordanian Armed Forces, the Royal Medical Services had spared no effort in serving the country as a whole and not solely to the Armed Forces.

The state will make the necessary measures to promote the Royal Medical Services' work, the King said.

King Husayn referred to the situation in the region and the development of the peace process and said that Jordan was seeking a just peace. He said Jordan had made sacrifices and faced many hardships and the Jordanian Armed Forces offered all that it could to defend the nation.

"We have paid a high price that no one can deny," the King added.

The Palestinians, he said, have moved ahead of Jordan and now shoulder their responsibilities to regain their rights.

"We will continue to support them with all our might to help them regain those rights," said the King, adding that Jordan had no ambitions in that except to help them to regain their lands.

he said that the Palestinians should have their own freedom in the future to decide the nature of relations which they would have with Jordan.

Egypt, he said, had led the Arab Nation in wars and later chose the path of peace.

The Madrid conference brought together all the parties involved in the conflict and Jordan joined in after taking into consideration all aspects of this endeavour, the King said.

"We provided an umbrella to the Palestinians, allowing them to speak for themselves and later they moved ahead and chose their path," he said.

"With the Jordan-Israel peace treaty we have regained our lands and water and we regained an internationally recognised borders," he added.

The peace treaty, he said, created an atmosphere for the Kingdom and its people to pursue the path of development and progress, and "we moved at the right moment to ensure that this will take place."

The King said Jordan was trying to make up for the lost years and the sufferings of the people and will continue to lay foundations for peace.

"We are in a race against time in order to enable the people what others have achieved so that the people will have the opportunities like others and to prepare the nation to face the future challenges," the King said.

He said Jordan was striving to become a model for the other countries in the region in terms of democracy, political pluralism and respect of human rights.

Referring to the Oct. 29-31, Middle East and North Africa economic conference to be held in Amman, the King said Jordan was preparing for a "major event towards opening to the world and to benefit from the experiences of others and to build foundations for prosperity."

Brotherhood Leader on Commitment to Non-Violence

JN1210132795 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12-13 Oct 95 pp 1,7

[Report by Khalil al-Shawbaki; "special to the JORDAN TIMES"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—The leader of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement, Muhammad al-Dhunaybat, on Wednesday [11 October] said the movement did not have any links with Hamas and that the Brotherhood was committed to non-violent opposition to achieve its objectives.

In an interview with the Arab daily al-Ra'y and the Jordan times, Mr. al-Dhunaybat said that the movement was keen on safeguarding national stability and security. Opposition by the movement is targeted at the government's policies and not against Jordan itself, he said.

"We have always sought dialogue (with the leadership)... our opposition is legitimate and emanates from our deep islamic values and traditions," Mr. Thuneibat said. "There is nothing in the Brotherhood's strategy or policy that calls for toppling the regime. We are advocates of reform... gradual reform."

"We have always said that we will adopt peaceful means to bring about change. We never believed in violence or intellectual terrorism," he added.

Mr. al-Dhunaybat said the movement condemned violence in all its shapes. While denouncing "Intellectual and political terrorism," Mr.al-Dhunaybat said "government terrorism" was the main reason behind "extremism."

He regretted that the stat-run media overstate facts related to extremism in Jordan by accusing Islamist groups of carrying out violent and terrorist activities.

"It is a distortion of the image of islamic action. it is not in the interest of the country either, especially that Jordan is known to be stable and secure," he said.

While extremism and terrorism were practically absent in the country through-out history, Mr. thuneibat said that the phenomenon of extremist groups appeared in Jordan only after Sept. 13, 1993 Oslo agreement between the Palestinians and Israel and as a result of the "conspiracy" against Islam led by "the new world order."

He blamed what he described as the worldwide campaign against Islam for the emergence of extremist groups and accused certain regimes of encouraging these acts.

"Add to it unemployment, vacuum and the general mood of our youngsters today," he said. "They are trying to express their point of view vis-a-vis the repression of public freedoms."

In a reply to a question whether the Brotherhood would join the government, Mr. Dhunaybat said there were two opposing streams within the movement, with one firmly opposed to any kind of participation in the government while the other wing regarding it as a duty.

"We took part in Mudar Badran's government (in 1991) because we believed at that time that we should be defending the country from dangers confronting it during the Gulf war," he said. "At present we have no interest to participant in the government. We have already declared out position vis-a-vis the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty.

"It is not possible that we oppose these treaties with Israel and then participate in the government," he said.

Mr. Dhunaybat said the Brotherhood's present alliance with 10 other political parties, mainly leftists, while it was constantly at odds with them throughout history was only tactical.

"It is coordination over a common cause. It does not mean that we recognise the legitimacy of their thoughts. We believe in political pluralism s long as it is within the general Islamic framework. What we want for ourselves we want it for others too," he said.

He denied that the movement has any administrative, financial or organisational links with the Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas. he said that the relationship came to an end after 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

"We sympathise with the Palestinian cause and we support the Palestinians. But Hamas is an Islamic Palestinian faction that is directing its operations on the land of Palestine," he said.

"It is not in the interest of the Palestinian people and the Hamas movement to participate in elections (for a Palestinian self- rule council) next year," he added.

Mr. Dhunaybat insisted the Islamic movement insisted the islamic movement in Jordan had its unique experience and history and was thus different from Islamic movements in other Arab countries.

"We did not face what our brothers in Egypt and Algeria had faced. The Islamic experience in Jordan is .... a model for Islamic action," he noted.

Column: Extradition Would Harden Hamas' Line

JN0910154595 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 9 Oct 95 pp 32, 28

["The Last Station" column by Salih al-Qallab: "So That The United States Will Not Err"]

[FBIS Translated Text] It should be reiterated that the United States will be making a grave mistake if it considers extraditing Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Political Bureau of the Hamas [Islamic] Movement, who is detained in the United States, to Israel in accordance with a memorandum submitted by the Israeli Government that includes charges which require 50 years of investigation and searches to prove.

The mistake here is that the United States knows that the Hamas Movement, led by Abu-Marzuq, is undergoing a rebirth, and that there is a dialogue between moderate and hardline trends—one trend calls for dealing with the results of the peace process as a fait accompli, and another trend insists on maintaining past positions. Certainly, meeting the Israeli desire will weaken the moderates and strengthen the opponents of peaceful solutions.

If the United States—the country sponsoring the peace process in the region—responds to Israeli pressures and extradites Abu-Marzuq to Israel, it will wipe out the plan to change Hamas from a movement that believes only in armed struggle as a solution to the Palestine question to a political a party that opposes, accepts, and rejects through peaceful means.

This is a decisive stage, and the internal debate between moderates and hardliners in Hamas is also being witnessed by all Palestinian forces and organizations, including Fatah, which is considered the ruling party in the National Authority. This situation is also being witnessed by all Arab parties and forces. When the United States extradites Abu-Marzuq to Israel it will add fuel to the fire and confirm the credibility of the forces opposed to the peace process.

If there is no occupation and no bloody conflict, there will be no justification for the peace process. When Israel occupies Abu- Marzuq's homeland, it is logical for him to brandish his sword to liberate his homeland and to establish a resistance organization. Now, after the peace process has made all these strides, Hamas should be given the chance to catch its breath, rather than cornered through the extradition of its leader to Israel in response to the Israeli desire.

We know that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat asked U.S. President Bill Clinton to free Abu-Marzuq during the White House celebrations. Certainly, responding to this request will open the way for the dialogue currently taking place in Khartoum, and will enhance the convictions of those who are engaged in the dialogue of the feasibility of changing the Hamas Movement from a military organization to a political party, and to deal with the results of the peace process as a fait accompli.

Official Confirms 'Huge Quantities of Gas' Found

JN1210124795 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Oct 95 p 32

[Report by Jawdat Nashkhu]

[FBIS Translated Text] In confirmation of the exclusive report published by AL-DUSTUR yesterday, Dr. Fakhr-al-Din al-Daghistani, director general of the Natural Resources Authority, said huge quantities of gas were discovered to the south of al-Rishah gas field that may enable Jordan to operate all its electricity generation stations in the future.

He said the National Oil Company is digging new wells in the new field, which together with al-Rishah field, whose area is 5,000 square kilometers [figure as published] is the company's concession area for 50 years in accordance with an agreement that gives it 50 percent of the value of the discovered gas.

He said the problems facing gas exploration in Jordan are advanced technological ones that the company will overcome through the revenues of the gas that will be sold and through providing its expertise and drilling rigs to the countries interested in exploring for gas and oil.

He said foreign companies are interested in exploration operations for the exploitation of shale oil and the construction of electricity stations that operate from the shale oil.

Foreign Investment Climate Assessed

JN1210143995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12-13 Oct 95 pp 12,7

[Report by Edmund Blair Meed]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] For three days in mid-September Amman played host to some of the men and women who are credited with moving the world's financial markets. Delegates from 57 North American pension funds, representing some $500,000 million under management, met in the Jordanian capital and were taken on a tour of Jordan's most promising manufacturing ventures, such as the electronics and household appliances factory of Middle East Industrial Complex (Goldstar) and El Zay Ready Wear Manufacturing.

The September conference attracted none of the media attention that will inevitably surround another meeting being held in the Jordanian capital at the end of October: The Amman economic summit. The summit will be the international stage for Jordan to show the world how far it has come since the debt crisis of the late 1980s. It will be an opportunity to put up for scrutiny the raft of legislation the Jordanian Parliament has worked on recently to further open up the economy. Under the auspices of King Husayn, the October gathering will be attended by, among others, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, Russia's Foreign Affairs Minister Andrey Kozyrev and Shim'on Peres, the foreign affairs minister of Israel. But all the ceremony of the summit will be for nought if investors like the group of foreign pension fund managers are not impressed by the government's efforts.

During the past few months, ministers, parliamentary committees and the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament have worked hard to put together a package of measures that will reform the country's tax and investment codes and create a more attractive investment environment. The most important stage was achieved on Sept. 18, when the Upper House of Parliament approved the new investment law, paving the way for ratification by the King. The law will become effective in October.

Incentives

The code provides incentives for investors in the form of tax exemptions, which are weighted in favour of less developed areas. An institution will be set up with the task of encouraging investment and speeding up the process of registering had licensing new projects. The law also contains a commitment that all investment proposals will receive a reply from the higher council for investment, a body made up of ministers and business representatives, within 30 days of application.

"The law will promote efficiency and credibility," says Raja'i al-Qusus, chief economist at Jordan Investment & Finance Bank. "If approval is not given then there are other processes to explain the motives. It will be more transparent."

The law also aims to ease the way for greater foreign investment, which mainly covers non-Arab investors. "The non-Jordanian investor will enjoy equal treatment under this law to the Jordanian investor," according to Article 24 of the law. A bylaw, which is due to be drawn up and passed by Parliament before the end of the year, will outline in detail any restrictions on the proportion of foreign ownership allowed, and is likely to include a 49 per cent cap on the foreign stake in indirect investment made in listed companies.

The same bylaw will also spell out a simplified mechanism for foreign investors to obtain permission to trade on the local stock exchange. The existing system, which involves each application passing through several tiers of authority including the prime minister's office, has proved a constant source of frustration to prospective investors. Under the new system, each application will require approval from the Amman Financial Market, a non-resident custodial account with one of three local banks offering the service, and then the foreigner will be free to invest.

In addition to the investment law, a new tax code is still working its way through the legislature aimed at easing the tax burden on local companies. The corporate income tax ceiling will be lowered to 30 per cent, amounting to a 20 per cent reduction in some cases. The code will also include an increase in sales tax, which is expected to rise from the existing seven per cent to 10 per cent and is aimed to make up lost revenues from lower corporate returns.

A communications law has also been included in this batch of legislation and opens the way for greater participation of private finance in the economy. This was passed by the Lower House on Aug. 20 and allows the reorganisation of the telecommunications sector, including privatising the state-owned Telecommunications Corporation.

For some foreign investors keen to invest in Jordan, this legislative action has come not a moment too soon. In fact, several foreign fund managers argue that Jordan's failure to act earlier has already left the country out of the first wave of investment which has already flowed into more open Arab markets during the past two or three years, including Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia and Oman.

A good illustration of the difficulties are those experienced by the Foreign & Colonial (F&C) Emerging Middle East Fund, which was set up in 1994 with the support of the International Finance Corporation. With capital of $42 million dedicated to Middle East markets, the largest fund of its kind, F&C has yet to obtain permission to invest this fund in Jordanian stocks. F&C has managed to invest about $1 million in the American exchange, but only through their global emerging equities fund. 'Umar al-Masri, Middle East fund manager at F&C, says that given access to the market he would consider allocating up to $10 million to Jordan, or the equivalent of half the estimated $20 million in foreign investment which has so far been placed in local equities.

There are plenty of economic reasons to make Jordan attractive to foreign investment. The government is delivering growth of more than six per cent a year and an annual inflation rate of about four per cent, bettering the targets set under the IMF-sponsored reform programme. The trade deficit remains too high at $2,000 million, most analysts agree, but exports are rising and slowly closing that gap, Jordan's foreign debt has also declined sharply, particularly since the signing of the peace treaty with Israel, by now about &6,000 million, compared with a peak of $8,000 million in 1989.

Yet Jordan's economic fortunes, and its attractiveness to investors, do not hinge solely on sound statistics or new legislation. "Whatever happens as far as new laws are concerned, a cut in corporate taxes or, on paper at least, making it easier for foreigners to invest, this is still a rumour-and politically-driven market," says Khalid al-Masri, senior manager for international investment at Arab Jordan Investment Bank (AJIB).

King Husayn has exerted every effort during the past three years to create a political environment that ensures stability and guarantees the country's economic future. Relations with the Gulf are improving steadily after the nadir in 1991 following Jordan's failure to join the U.S.-led military coalition against Iraq. Strained ties with Saudi Arabia are now returning to ambassadorial level, and even icy relations with Kuwait are beginning to thaw.

More significant was the signing of the 1994 peace agreement with Israel. Economic ties are likely to grow only cautiously with the Jewish state, as questions are still being raised about the extent to which ties between the two sides should be normalised. However, the deal has paved the way for some debt forgiveness from the West, notably the U.S., as well as opening up new opportunities in the Palestinian market on the West Bank.

Yet it is the plight of one country, more than any other of Jordan's neighbours, which is the focus of attention for Jordan's business community and foreign investors. As al-Masri at AJIB explains: "Our relation to Iraq is more important to us than any potential relationship with Israel or the Palestinians, or even the Gulf." But frustratingly for King Husayn, there is almost no diplomatic pressure he has been able to exert to influence the U.N. Security Council's decision to maintain sanctions during the past four years. A decision which has had a greater economic impact than any improvement of ties with Israel or the Gulf.

Jordan's geographic fate continues to weigh heavily on its economic prospects. The investment laws will be welcomed at the Amman summit, and the economic turnaround achieved during the past five years will no doubt be applauded. But until Iraq rejoins the commercial world, the pension fund managers are likely to focus their gaze eastwards and on the U.N. before they are prompted to unlock the coffers that would transform Jordan's investment fortunes.

U.S. Ambassador Addresses Business Association

JN1210180795 Amman Radio Jordan in English
1700 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. Ambassador to Jordan said that the kingdom has the technical cadres and the experts that qualifies it to play a vital role in the Mideast region in light of the political developments and expected economic changes.

During a dinner banquet held by the Jordanian Businessmen and Exporters Association, Ambassador Wesley Egan said that the United States' commitment to the Middle East future is not new but goes back to 1944, when ex-American President Theodore Roosevelt underlined the importance of the region.

The ambassador said that the U.S. was still committed to achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. He explained that the current political peace process must be accompanied by a paralleled economic process aimed at achieving economic development and improving regional economies as well as increasing economic cooperation among countries in the region.

Al-Hariri Returns From Germany, Meets With al-Hirawi

NC1210202495 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri returned to Beirut this evening following a three-day official visit to Germany. During the visit, the prime minister held consultations with ranking German officials.

Upon his arrival, the prime minister went to the presidential palace in B'abda where he met with President Ilyas al-Hirawi. At the end of the meeting, Prime Minister al-Hariri said he has invited the ministers for consultations at his house tomorrow. He said he will contact Chamber Speaker Nabih Birri on various issues, including the presidential elections.

Fadlallah Rejects Chirac Remarks on Fundamentalism

MM1310082095 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 12 Oct 95 p 5

[Report by unidentified correspondent: "In Response to Chirac's Call To Combat Islamic Fundamentalism, Fadlallah Says: Islam Does Not Consider Violence the Basis for Achieving Results"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Beirut, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — The Lebanese scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah urged French President Jacques Chirac to direct his advice on fundamentalist violence to the regimes and not to the fundamentalists. In response to the French president's call "to combat Islamic fundamentalism," Fadlallah said in his weekly Koranic lesson that, since assuming the presidency, Chirac has offered "much advice to the Muslims in which he urges them to forgive and open up." Fadlallah added: "We agree with him that fundamentalism in the Western sense, in other words the tendency that considers violence a basis to achieve cultural and religious results and works to eliminate others, does not serve the interests of man."

Fadlallah pointed out that the Islamic movement is not a fundamentalist movement "in the European sense of the word. Islam has taught Muslims to open up to others and to preach the right word to them." He stressed that Islam does not consider violence the basis but "man is entitled to defend his freedom, his nation's freedom, and his just rights."

Fadlallah added that "the Islamists who are moving now are not moving because they want to impose violence in their areas, or because they do not want to enter into dialogue with others, or because they do not allow coexistence with the many other tendencies."

He urged France "which was the first to start the freedom movement for human rights" to look upon matters "not with one eye but with two open eyes, to see clearly who is practicing violence."

Fadlallah addressed the relations between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority and said: "We are confident of our brothers in Hamas and the fact that they will not stray from the jihad against Israel as long as realistic opportunities are still available to them to continue this action. We know that they face conditions more difficult than usual because they are now between the jaws of a clamp, between Israel and the self-rule Authority."

He added that "they are now working to secure some marginal space where they can enjoy freedom of action even if it is not in the West Bank or Gaza, but still in post-1948 Palestine. We cannot judge the outcome of this dialogue because it has not ended yet. There is a dialogue in Sudan and perhaps there is a dialogue inside Palestine. We must realize that the Hamas brothers' problem is that the alternative to dialogue would be Palestinian unrest and infighting, which would eliminate the intifadah completely. There is more than one dilemma, and we hope that they will succeed in extricating themselves from this dilemma and remain within the confines of the Palestinian intifadah, in which they proved that they personified heroism in it, alongside their brothers in the Islamic Jihad Movement."

Commenting on the call by Sayyid Tantawi, mufti of Egypt, to form a joint committee of three members, a Christian, a Jew, and a Muslim, to look for a solution to the Salman Rushdie case, he wondered: "What is the Christian's connection with this matter? The Christian has nothing to do with the Prophet Muhammad, peace be upon him. And what has the Jew to do with this matter, since Jews cannot bear the mention of the Prophet's name, peace be upon him. They are the believers' worst enemies and were the worst enemies of the Prophet, peace be upon him." He added: "We do not understand why there should be a joint committee of Christians, Jews, and Muslims. The issue is an Islamic issue and Imam Khomeyni proceeded from an Islamic ruling on which Muslims agree, namely the sentence for an apostate."

He went on: "The issue is an issue of consensus among Muslims. Shaykh Tantawi did not tell us how he can debate this sentence so that we may get acquainted with his viewpoint, and perhaps find a new opening in it."

'Resistance' Attack, Israeli Activity Detailed

NC1310090695 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance has delivered another harsh blow at the Zionist enemy as part of its continuous efforts to confront acts of aggression against our people in the steadfast villages.

The new operation, which took place last night, targeted a Zionist security convoy on al-'Ayshiyah-al-Khardali Road, causing dead or wounded enemy personnel. Enemy military sources this morning confirmed that a Zionist officer and a soldier were killed and seven others were wounded in this attack.

Our military correspondent in the south Samir 'Alamah sent us this report a short time ago.

[Begin 'Alamah recording] Only hours after it foiled two enemy attempts to advance to the liberated areas, the Islamic Resistance — asserting that it is always vigilant and is the watchful eye for the security of its people — again proved that it still holds the initiative by delivering a stunning blow to Zionist security inside the occupied strip in an area where there are intense Zionist posts.

Many Zionist soldiers were killed and wounded lasr night in a tight ambush laid by the Islamic Resistance for a Zionist security convoy on al-'Ayshiyah-al-Khardali Road. Zionist radio this morning acknowledged that an officer and a soldier were killed in the attack and that seven others were wounded, two of them seriously. It added that the wounded were taken to Rambam Hospital in Haifa for treatment. The radio cited a spokesman of the so-called Northern Area as saying that an explosive charge went off and that the explosion was followed by a rocket and machine-gun attack on a Zionist unit that was conducting a military and (?political) mission in the eastern sector of the occupied Lebanese territories.

Security sources this morning confirmed that two members of the patrol were killed and seven others were wounded in a rocket and machine-gun attack by Hizballah on a security convoy composed of officers and intelligence personnel inside the occupied areas of southern Lebanon.

The scene of the operation is surrounded by several [Israeli] posts. It is situated amid the enemy posts in al-Suwayda', 'Ali al-Tahir, al-Burj, Qal'at al-Shaqif, and al-'Ayshiyah Barracks. This latter post was targeted by the Islamic Resistance's fire support unit shortly before [words indistinct] in a concentrated bombardment, scoring direct hits in retaliation for Zionist aggressions.

The enemy forces were gripped with hysteria because of the Islamic Resistance's attack. Enemy helicopters strafed the al-Jarmaq area with heavy—caliber machineguns. The occupation artillery shelled the scene of the operation and illuminated it with 30 flares. The helicopters continued conducting intense flights over al-Jarmaq, al-Khardali, and al-'Ayshiyah until almost midnight.

The Zionist shelling also continued late into the night. It stretched to Jabal al-Rafi', al-Wadi al-Akhdar, al-Jarmaq, and the outskirts of Kafr Rumman. Heavy rounds were used in the shelling. In the evening, enemy artillery shells landed on Jabal al-Rafi' and the outskirts of al-Luwayzah, Sujud, Nab' al-Tasah, Majdal Zun, and Qabrikha.

Moreover, the Zionist enemy escalated its aggression and arbitrary measures against residents of the occupied area by resuming an old policy. The enemy demolished several houses in Bayt Yahun and [name indistinct] towns. At dawn yesterday, the occupation forces blew up seven homes in Bayt Yahun and Tulin town and their bulldozers razed the houses. Security sources said an Israeli logistics unit used two bulldozers to demolish seven homes in Bayt Yahun and Tulin. The sources added that the home owners were evicted from the occupied strip some time ago.

Two days ago, the occupation forces blew up the home of 'Abd-al-Ruba Ayyub near Kafr Tibnit Crossing. The house had been deserted by its owners for several years after it came under direct bombardment and sniper fire from the enemy positions in 'Ali al-Tahir, al-Burj, and Qal'at al-Shaqif. [end recording]

Police Uncover 2 Drug Smuggling Rings

NC1310070395 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 6 Oct 95 p 7

[FBIS Translated Text] On the evening of 4 October, a counternarcotics force, assisted by a Syrian intelligence force, stormed a cave in al-Ruwaymah village in 'Akkar and seized 460 kg of hashish packed in cloth and nylon bags and ready for export. Rashid 'Abduh Ja'far, one of the owners of the drugs, was arrested. A search is underway for his partners 'Adil Jahjah Ja'far and 'Ali Jahjah Ja'far.

Brigadier General Antoin 'Abbud, chief of the Criminal Investigation Department, held a news conference at the Counternarcotics Bureau in Tripoli during which he spoke about the drug bust. He said Rashid 'Abduh Ja'far is a major drug dealer.

REUTERS quoted a security source as saying that the seized drugs are valued at $240,000, but have a market price abroad of $4 million.

In another development, counternarcotics agents arrested 'Adil Abu-Rizq, Hani Khashshan, Karim al-Ba'ini, and Nasr al-Ba'ini on charges of forming a ring to smuggle drugs from Lebanon to Jordan and the United States. They seized 3 kg of raw heroin and $30,000, which was a downpayment on a $90,000 deal. The four defendants were remanded in custody in the Mount Lebanon district. Interrogation revealed that they had smuggled over 45 kg of heroin to the United States and Jordan using five female carriers, each of whom received between $15,000 and $20,000 for each trip plus the air tickets and travel expenses.

Al-Asad Receives Lebanese Prime Minister

JN0810191995 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at 1530 today. They discussed the situation in the region and issues of common interest to the two fraternal countries.

French Finance Secretary Arrives for Visit

Damascus SANA in Arabic 1740 GMT 8 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 8 Oct (SANA)—Herve (Gaimard), French secretary of state for financial affairs, arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

He was received at Damascus International Airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, the head of the Western Europe Department at the Foreign Ministry, the French ambassador in Damascus, and staff members of the French Embassy in Damascus.

In statement to a SANA correspondent, Mr. (Gaimard) said he is pleased to be in Damascus and that he will hold talks with Syrian officials on bilateral relations and cooperation.

Meets With al-Shar'

JN0910212095 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 9 Oct 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has received Herve [Gaimard], French secretary of state for financial affairs.

Attending the meeting were Yusuf Shakkur, assistant to the foreign minister, and Hani Habib, director of the Foreign Ministry's Economic Department. The meeting was attended on the French side by Frederick [Grasse], director of the economic and financial affairs at the French Foreign Ministry; [Francois Velory Dugalho], assistant to the treasury director at the Finance Ministry; and Jean-Claude Cousseran, the French ambassador in Damascus.

The talks dealt with the best ways of promoting friendly, cooperative relations between Syria and France, as well as between Syria and the EU.

Foreign Minister Receives PLO's Faruq Qaddumi

JN1210135995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi today.

Attending the meeting were Taha al-Khayrat, director of the Arab Homeland Desk at the Foreign Ministry; Muhammad Jihad, PLO Executive Committee member; and Mahmud al-Khalidi, PLO representative in Damascus.

The talks dealt with developments in the Palestinian arena.

Qaddumi on Syria, Taba Agreement

JN1210211795 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received PLO Political Department head Faruq Qaddumi this morning.

Attending the meeting were Taha al-Khayrat, director of the Arab Homeland Desk at the Foreign Ministry; Muhammad Jihad, PLO Executive Committee member; and Mahmud al-Khalidi, PLO representative in Damascus.

The talks dealt with developments in the Palestinian arena.

Qaddumi praised Syria's pan-Arab stands under his Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad's wise leadership toward the nation's causes, specifically toward the Palestinian people's cause.

Speaking to a SANA correspondent on the results of his visit to Damascus, Qaddumi said that the visit to Damascus is not just a visit but a return to the second homeland, fraternal Syria, where we feel amity and warmheartedness because it embodies the capital of Arab steadfastness. Qaddumi added: At this time, when the forces of evil join hands against the Arab nation, Syria stands lofty, offering no concessions and not allowing its determination to dampen. He added: Syria continues to abide by its political constants to preserve the nation's pan-Arab rights. From this premise, we are proud of these sincere pan-Arab stands.

Qaddumi added: Our visit to Syria enhances our hope that we will get rid of the Israeli occupation and that we will move to clear the Arab atmosphere, achieve Arab solidarity, and enhance the pan-Arab objectives of unity and liberation.

Qaddumi condemned the Taba agreement. He said: As PLO Executive Committee members, we announced that we reject the results of these agreements. We previously voiced reservations on the Oslo agreement and said that what will come after it would be worse. From this premise, seven PLO Executive Committee members reiterated their rejection of this agreement and their nonabidance by its contents, since it harms the

Palestinian people's national rights. Therefore, we say that the sincere Palestinian stand is that which opposes all these imposed concessions, because throughout the current negotiations, Israel did its best to impose its solution and concept of a settlement. At the same time, it carried out all kinds of repressive and terrorist measures.

In reply to a question on the so-called Middle East order that Israel advocates, Qaddumi said that this region is an Arab region where the Arab nation lives. It has a history and civilization and the forces of evil and aggression cannot obliterate the Arab nation's objectives in spite of the weakness prevailing over some Arab circles and over Arab relations. Qaddumi added: However, the Arab people in every Arab country are deeply aware of their pan-Arab affiliation and are ready to defend their Arabism, homeland, and the nation's objectives of liberation and unity.

Qaddumi said that the idea of Middle East projects is just to shuffle the cards so that Israel can impose control on the region and its resources, and exploit its economies under the name of Middle Eastern cooperation. Unfortunately, some have responded to these malicious calls.

On his talks with the Palestinian factions in Damascus, Qaddumi said: We are in constant communication with all our brothers. We hold consultations on what the future Palestinian strategy should be, particularly at this critical stage in the life of our Palestinian people who suffer from the siege and the starvation policy Israel carries out in order to impose a defeatist settlement of their cause. We will remain in contact inside and outside the homeland, so that there will be no separation between those who are inside and those who are in the diaspora, since the Palestinian people are one people.

'Commentary' on al-Asad's AL-AHRAM Remarks

JN1210174895 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1238 GMT 12 Oct 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Dear listeners: Out of respect for Arab and world public opinion, and out of respect for the right of the Arab citizen and anyone else to obtain true information about the Middle East peace process and Arab policies, the Cairo newspaper AL-AHRAM interviewed President Hafiz al-Asad. During this press interview, the president addressed the Arabs and the world, including Arab and international political and media circles, and informed them of the true developments in the peace process as they have taken place exactly after the world's press and radio stations were saturated with semi-truths and half-truths on this process, taking into consideration that semi-truths are only biased and tendentious information. At the same time, half-truths are half-lies. Because facts are always the strongest, President Hafiz al- Asad's answers were immediately received with the broadest Arab and international attention. These answers were also received with thorough and enlightened decisions by the various Arab and world political and media circles.

Although most of the answers were clearly brief, some of them were characterized by the necessary details which leave no room for some sides' distortion of the peace process. An example of this is the president's remarks on the two chiefs of staff meeting and who set the agenda, as well as the meetings of the experts who deal with the details to be implemented. No agreement was reached during these meetings. Neither has anything been decided between the two sides. The issue has become mere baseless talk circulated by the news media. The object to show that the peace process is proceeding well, and that the Arab citizen should take into consideration that there are meetings being held, and everything is all right.

So, from this position—the position of truthfulness to oneself and to others, from the position of honesty to right and the truth, and the position of informed transparency leave none of the details of the issue in the dark, President Hafiz al-Asad has further ingrained Syria's positions toward the peace process in the international conscience. We are for the peace process, and we do not agree on what we do not believe in. We reject early-warning stations on the ground, even if this leads to the collapse of the peace process. This is because Syria does not want to get rid of and maintain the occupation at the same time, and does not want any symbol of occupation to remain on its land. So, those who have read this interview which the newspaper AL-AHRAM held with President Hafiz al-Asad realize Israel's role in obstructing the peace process. They have also learned about the role of some Arabs who have facilitated this process, the obstruction process, for Israel, and provided it with tools by deviating from Arab coordination. The history of nations, the president says, whether one state or many, shows that there are self-evident commitments, regardless of agreements and documents. When there is violation of or deviation from these natural issues which began with the beginning of our existence as an Arab nation, I believe that he who commits these violations or deviations will not be judged favorably—and neither will those who revolve in his orbit.

Within the framework of Arab tools which facilitate Israel's obstruction of the peace process, President Hafiz al-Asad spoke to AL-AHRAM about the so-called concept of Middle Easternism. He explained the serious dimensions of this concept, saying: I believe they want a dark future for us. I believe that the long-term goal of the others is to neutralize what is called Arabism, and consequently, the Arabs. They want to neutralize our feelings as a nation, canceling the pan-Arab identity, the spiritual identity, if we can put it this way. Of course, as Arabs, we certainly reject this.

Thus, out of enabling the Arab people and international public opinion to learn about truth and have access to information, President Hafiz al-Asad has drawn the picture in the Arab region and the situation of the peace process. It is a realistic picture which every Arab should take seriously. Moreover, out of the full knowledge of the resources of his Arab nation, President Hafiz al-Asad has spoken about the positive things the Arab nation can do to confront this situation. When he said that that they want a dark future for us, the president said that this does not mean that it will be so. He also said that every Arab citizen must confront those whose values have or will have collapsed. We do not allow anyone to tamper with our sanctities. The president also said: I believe that the will of the people is the true force. I am certain that the Arab masses have this will.

President Hafiz al-Asad's remarks at this press interview are extremely accurate and clear. With the facts they have included, they sweep away the pile of false, tendentious, and biased information through which the obstructors of the peace process and the violators of its terms of reference have sought to conceal their role in obstructing the achievement of a just peace—a just and comprehensive peace which the international peoples, governments, and states are still waiting for, since it is peace for each and every one of them, and not only for the Middle East.

Papers Comment on al-Asad's Remarks

JN1110213195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0555 GMT 11 Oct 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial entitled "We Do Not Accept Any Relinquishment of Our Rights" AL-BA'TH refers to the news conference held by Presidents Hafiz al-Asad and Husni Mubarak during the visit to Damascus by the Egyptian president.

AL-BA'TH says: the search for peace is the mission of those who are convinced of the importance of this peace. If their conviction in its importance is a strategic one, then this means that the efforts made to establish peace should eclipse other considerations because peace is more valuable and important than issues that are related to a single party. AL—BA'TH adds: President al-Asad emphasized that we in Syria do not link the peace efforts and the approaching dates of the U.S. and Israeli elections

AL-BA'TH says: The Madrid conference which was held to be the starting point of peace was not linked to the election campaigns but to the world's need of real and lasting peace in the Middle East that is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy.

AL-BA'TH stresses: We in Syria are not in hurry for a solution that does not restore all rights, and we do not follow a path that is drawn by Israeli conditions.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: If peace is sought through concessions that we present, this is something that Syria will not provide, but if peace will be realized in accordance with international resolutions, this satisfies the Syrian demand. Israel's rulers should commit themselves to implementing Security Council resolutions and the land-for-peace principle. Israel's failure to do so, will make the road to peace far away.

In its editorial entitled "Syria Will Not Accept Any Symbol of Occupation" TISHRIN says: President Hafiz al-Asad emphasizes anew, in his comprehensive interview with the Egyptian newspaper AL-AHRAM, that we in Syria are with the peace process and we have never embarked on something in which we do not believe or on something that conflicts with the pan-Arab interest or with what we believe to be in the pan-Arab interest.

TISHRIN says: When President al-Asad clarifies this position, he is putting an end to all ambiguities and incorrect assumptions that pressure and blackmail will succeed on the Syrian track as in the case of other tracks. TISHRIN stresses that Syria will not stop its endeavor to realize just and comprehensive peace, and it continues to adhere to the bases and principles of this peace. On the other hand, the efforts Syria is making aim at realizing the aspired peace which is the one that fully ends occupation and guarantees the legitimate Arab rights.

TISHRIN says: Syria which sticks to the requirements of just and comprehensive peace responded to all efforts that were made to revitalize the hopes of nudging this peace. However, Israel continues to wager on something else and places obstacles to peace. Within this context, the Israeli idea about setting up early-warning stations on the Golan land is considered blackmail that is totally rejected by Syria. This was what President Hafiz al-Asad emphasized when he said that this subject is unnegotiable even if it leads to the collapse of the peace process.

TISHRIN concludes: Syria does not want to get rid of occupation and maintain the occupation at the same time, and does not want any symbol of occupation to remain on its land. Hence, any measure that conflicts with our pan-Arab interest, our rights, and our legitimate sovereignty on our lands is unacceptable.

Press Lauds al-Asad's Stand on Peace

JN1210103095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0545 GMT 12 Oct 95

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Syria Cannot Be Taken In by Election Pressures," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: Once again, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, the great leader, has dotted the i's and crossed the t's, reiterating our constants regarding the peace process after four years of a futile debate with Israel, which thought that the time factor could weaken the Syrian position. Syria, through leader al-Asad, has asserted that it is not in a rush for an agreement that would undermine its rights and demands, and that nobody will be able to drag it into a situation in which its national interest could be weakened. The president thus asserted that the time factor will only boost Syria's resolve and render its position stronger and firmer. The time factor cannot be a bargaining chip to Syria's detriment. As for Israeli rulers, they have nursed the delusion of having both peace and land at the same time.

AL-BA'TH adds: The Israeli rulers do not wish to hear or see anything except that which satisfies their arrogance and hubris. Well, Syria has never entertained the notion of doing so. Syria will not set forth, either now or in the future, anything that conflicts with the interests of its people and nation. It will not be duped by warnings regarding the time factor and election considerations in either the United States or Israel.

AL-BA'TH goes on to say: Rabin is showing a false concern for peace. With his eyes set on Israeli voters, he is attempting to make Syria pay a price. Nonetheless, he is mistaken, because Syria has not entertained the notion of changing its stands. It has not grown accustomed to changing positions ahead of elections, or at any other time.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: The forfeiters are abandoning the rights of their people and nation and accepting crumbs to the detriment of the just and sacred cause. Meanwhile, Syria remains strong and proud, blocking the road to any bargaining over territory and rights and rejecting any kind of Israeli presence under any pretext whatsoever.

Under the headline "Peace and Constants," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has underlined Syria's firm commitment to the peace process, saying that Syria is sincerely pursuing a just and meaningful peace. In a lengthy interview with the newspaper AL-AHRAM, he explained the kind of peace Syria has been pursuing since 1973, as well as the dangers posed by the Israeli stand. He maintained that the Israelis are deliberately wasting time and circumventing the requirements and prerequisites of peace, which are enshrined in the relevant international legitimacy resolutions.

The paper adds: His Excellency the president has shown that Syria's firm position toward the issue of peace is nurtured by self-confidence and commitment to national and pan-Arab principles that are opposed to the abandonment of territories or rights. However, Syria's honest position toward peace can in no way mean that it can be held in disregard. His Excellency President al-Asad has ruled out the possibility of our accepting anything we do not believe in, anything that conflicts with pan-Arab interests, or anything we deem as unfair or inequitable regardless of the implications entailed.

The paper goes on to say: If our wishes are realized, there will be peace. Otherwise, the situation will remain unchanged. When Israel subscribes to the components of peace, declares its commitment to withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders, and announces its acceptance of security arrangements grounded in the principles of justice [al-'adl], equality [al-tasawi], parallelism [al-tawazi], and reciprocity [al-taqabul], the peace process will see a real breakthrough and real progress based on clear foundations and not on maneuvers and games of deception and deceit.

In another commentary entitled "A Confident Position," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: At the joint news conference he held with President Mubarak on 10 October, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad affirmed in all clarity and honesty that the time factor is not pressuring Syria, and that our position on the Middle East peace process will remain unchanged regardless of Israeli elections. These courageous and confident words, which are based on an enlightened and accurate reading of regional and world changes, have come to reiterate anew, without any doubt, that Syrian positions cannot change with the change of governments and administrations in other countries. Syria will constantly maintain its firm and principled position, which is for a just, comprehensive, balanced, fair, and equitable settlement that is in line with the relevant international legitimacy resolutions.

The paper adds: Elections in either the United States or Israel will not make Syria show haste. They will not push it to conclude a quick and arbitrary settlement that does not meet its legitimate demands of regaining all its territory and rights. Establishing a linkage between elections and peace is both unrealistic and preposterous. Such a linkage cannot be deemed sensible and sound, because elections are one thing and peace is something else, something that is completely different.

AL-THAWRAH concludes by saying: If it is really pursuing peace, as it claims, the Rabin government must first change its provocative negotiating tactics and halt its wagers on partial and flawed solutions. Moreover, it must commit itself to complete withdrawal from all occupied territories.

Afghanistan

Envoy in Iran Dismisses Taleban Claim of Victories

LD1210183995 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A source from Afghanistan's Government has rejected Taleban's claim on capture of important areas around Kabul city. The Taleban group has claimed that they have captured Pol-e Charkhi in the east of Kabul, Campani in the west of Kabul, and Chelsotun and Darolaman regions.

In stating the above points, the Afghan charge d'affaires Mr. Khorasani in the Islamic Republic of Iran said this morning: In their recent attack, the Taleban group have only captured Chahar Asiab region, 20 km south of Kabul. But the hills of Chahar Asiab are under the control of the government forces.

In his interview with the correspondent of the radio-television of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Khorasani called the Taleban group warmongers in Afghanistan and said that the government of Afghanistan would give a suitable reply to this warmongering group. The government forces are ready to defend Kabul with all available means.

The Afghan charge d'affaires in Tehran said that the Taleban group are warmongers in Afghanistan and have rejected a 10-day cease-fire proposed by Mahmoud Mestiri, special envoy of the UN secretary general.

The official of the Afghan government said that some small clashes have taken place along the Salang highway, 100 km north of Kabul, between the forces under the command of General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, head of the northern movement, and government forces. He added: Talks are under way between Hekmatyar, Dostam, the Taleban group, and Karim Khalili group, anti-government faction of Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic Unity Party of Afghanistan]. They probably have reached an agreement.

The forces of Taleban carried out this morning a rocket attack on the residential areas of Kabul city. Associated Press reports that at least five rockets landed on some regions in the southeast of Kabul. Report on casualties has not yet been given.

The radio of the Afghan Government also reported that fierce fighting is going on around Kabul between the government forces and the Taleban group. The radio also said that heavy losses were imposed on the opposition forces as a result of the attack by the government forces; and the pro-Rabbani forces have succeeded in repulsing the Taleban attack.

Daily Addresses Taleban Damage to Muslim 'Image'

LD1110111395 Tehran IRNA in English 1041 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 11, IRNA — An English-language daily Wednesday [11 October] wrote that the Taleban move besides tarnishing the image of the Afghan Muslims, has damaged the image of Muslims worldwide. "If such persecution based on people's belief had not been committed in the past, Bosnian Muslims would not have been 'ethnically cleansed' by Bosnian Serbs," TEHRAN TIMES added.

"Taleban's position is unstable and there is no clear sign that they would come to power as the indisputable rulers in Afghanistan," the daily underlined. The Taleban has ordered the inhabitants of Zaranj, in southwestern Afghanistan to leave the town in ten days, it said adding, "apparently, the inhabitants of Zaranj are driven out of their home and hearth because they are Shias."

War-torn Afghanistan needs peace which is probably attainable through understanding, noted the article, adding that all warring factions in that country should spare no effort in bringing about national reconciliation in order to pave the way for reconstruction of their country and its return to the mainstream of the international community. After the mujahedeen groups ousted soviet forces, the world expected them to set aside their differences and build up a new afghanistan, the editorial said. "Unfortunately, this did not happen."

However, it said, the Afghan mujahedeen began to fight each other on factional lines which is unjustifiable. "Afghan mujahedeen should be vigilant and prepared to check further moves of the Taleban," it advised.

A government should be run by the people, for the benefit of the people, regardless of the people's belief and regardless of their race, the article stated.

It concluded by saying that any group that succeeds in governing Afghanistan must govern for the sake of its people, setting aside race and religion, and careful not to spill its strife across its borders.

Government Said To Clear Gozareh District of Taleban

LD1210162895 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Gozareh District, Herat Province, was cleared of the so-called Taleban militia and 38 men of Taleban were killed.

According to reports, the mojahedin of Herat Province killed 16 militiamen in Seyahoshan village, Gozareh

District, Herat Province. Another group of the Taleban militiamen, while fleeing in the direction of Zendajan District, was attacked by the mojahedin, as a result of which 22 so-called Taleban militiamen were killed. A Datsun motor-vehicle belonging to the militia, was set on fire.

Zendajan District is located in the west of Herat city, and Gozareh District in south of Herat city. By clearing these districts, the Taleban group should be surrounded.

Government Launches Counteroffensive Against Taleban

BK1310011195 Hong Kong AFP in English 1757 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, Oct 12 (AFP) — Forces loyal to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani launched a counter-attack against the Taleban Islamic movement in south Kabul late Thursday [12 October], capturing several key points, the Defence Ministry spokesman told AFP.

"We have captured the Khairabad Hills and Rishkor on one front, and several mountain peaks on another," said spokesman Abdullah.

He said both the Rishkor army base and the adjacent hill-top anti-aircraft missile base, were now in the hands of pro-Rabbani troops.

Earlier Thursday there was an artillery duel between the Taleban and pro-Rabbani gunners for the Khairabad Hills, the heights of which command not only the southern suburbs of Kabul but also the plains of Charasyab further south.

On the main road running south to Charasyab, the district centre which the Taleban captured Tuesday night, pro-Rabbani troops had also made some advances after first capturing the adjacent mountain peaks, Abdullah said.

He reported fresh fighting on the front, which is a narrow gorge that opens out onto the plains of Chahar Asiab: the Taleban still control the southern entrance to this gorge, Abdullah said.

Former Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, arguably the most famous of all mojahedin leaders during the Russian occupation of Afghanistan, was "personally in overall command of this operation" Abdullah said.

The pro-Rabbani counter-offensive started around dusk Thursday, just 48 hours after the Taleban made good their pledge to attack Kabul. It is still too early to predict the final outcome of the battle, which both sides are determined to win. This battle is important because it will not only determine the fate of Kabul, but very likely also that of the two fighting factions as well, for the loser will not survive in the long-term.

Meanwhile Defence Ministry sources reported pro-Rabbani guerrillas have attacked the Taleban in Herat province, gaining control over the districts of Zindajan and Gozareh to the west and south of the capital.

Pro-Rabbani mojahedin under the command of Alauddin Khan were reported to have staged coordinated ambushes against the Taleban, inflicting heavy casualties.

The Taleban captured the three western provinces of Nimroz, Farah and Herat in a lightening strike about five weeks ago.

Counteroffensive Halts Advance

BK1310100095 Hong Kong AFP in English 0922 GMT 13 Oct 95

[By Terence White]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KABUL, Oct 13 (AFP) — A counter-offensive by the presidential forces has halted the Taleban militia's advance toward the Afghan capital and the city center was calm early Friday [13 October].

Officials here said troops loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani in a counter-attack the previous night dislodged the Taleban Islamic militia from the southern fringes of Kabul.

Rabbani forces unleashed salvoes of long-range rockets at Taleban positions during the night, Afghan government spokesman Abdullah (Eds: one name) said. The fighting subsided before dawn. Residents said that no more explosions were heard early Friday.

Abdullah described the counter-attack as a great success. The Taleban have been pushed back from the Khairabad Hills, which dominate the southern flank of Kabul, he said, claiming that presidential forces also recaptured Rishkor, where a major military base is located.

Sources here said the situation at the Kabul frontline was stable, but it was not yet clear who controls Rishkor.

The Taleban had overrun Rishkor, about 12 kilometers (eight miles) from the centre of Kabul, on Wednesday after a series of advances that included the capture of Chahar Asiab, 25 kilometers (16 miles) south of the city.

There were no details on Friday about any fighting at Chahar Asiab which served as former headquarters of Muslim fundamentalist leader Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami faction.

Abdullah said Rabbani's top commander and ex-defence minister, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, himself directed the overnight attack from the Television Tower hills in southern Kabul to prevent the Taleban penetration into the city.

The Taleban militia, comprising mostly Afghan refugee students, emerged from the religious schools in Pakistan in late summer last year.

Vowing to end factional fighting that erupted after the fall of Kabul's communist regime in April 1992, the Taleban captured a third of the country in quick succession, mainly due to desertions and defections by pro-government commanders.

The Taleban, who have said their ultimate goal was to capture Kabul and install an Islamic government, reached the gates of Kabul in March this year but pro-Rabbani troops forced them to retreat.

The Taleban movement strong in the country's south, surfaced again in August this year, taking several western provinces including the key city of Herat on the Iranian border last month after capturing Afghanistan's second largest air base at Shindand.

Commander Mas'ud Said 'Risking His All' in Battles

BK1310045595 Hong Kong AFP in English 0413 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Oct 13 (AFP) — Afghanistan's former Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, a hero of the anti-Soviet war and overall commander of forces loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani, is risking his all in ongoing battles with the Taleban Islamic movement.

He faces the twin challenges of advances by the Taleban militia and treason within his own ranks.

"If he loses Kabul, he loses everything," said an Afghan intellectual, adding, "Kabul is the throne or the coffin."

Defence Ministry spokesman Abdullah told AFP that Mas'ud was "personally in overall command" of the counter-offensive launched on the Taleban late Thursday [12 October], two days after the Islamic movement made good its pledge to attack Kabul to overthrow President Borhanoddin Rabbani.

Raised from the dust of the Panjshir valley, to the north of Kabul, from where he waged the struggle against a half dozen Soviet offensives, Mas'ud now risks returning there, reduced to being just one among numerous commanders.

The Taleban, who have sworn to capture Kabul and drive out all the rival mojahedin factions, are in no mood to give him any quarter.

"If the Taleban are ready to let Rabbani go, they are more than willing to hang Mas'ud," said a representative of a humanitarian organisation working in Afghanistan.

Many observers believe that a Taleban victory in Kabul would mean open season on the Panjshiris who took over Kabul after the fall of the communists in April 1992. The Panjshiris, who form the core of Mas'ud's troops, can therefore be expected to wage a desperate battle to keep their hold on the capital which they have made home for themselves and their families.

Although Mas'ud was forced to cede to the Taleban two strategically important bastions south of Kabul, Charasyab and Rishkor, he is not lacking in the means to put up a fight.

Diplomats say he has some 12,000 battle-hardened troops, a huge quantity of military hardware inherited from the communist regime and still intact defense lines dating back to the days of President Najibullah.

"The mojahedin have never succeeded in taking Kabul by force," said a diplomat. He recalled that even the communist regime did not suffer a military defeat but collapsed under the weight of betrayals and changes of alliances.

This same risk awaits Mas'ud, reputedly a brilliant military strategist but a poor politician. Many Afghans, especially the Pashtuns, who make up the majority, accuse Mas'ud of having concentrated power among members of his own ethnic Tajik group, especially the Panjshiris.

All the men who hold key posts in Kabul, the "eminence grise" Abdur Rahman, security chief General Fahim, de facto Defence Minister Yunus Qarooni and spokesman Abdullah are all Tajiks loyal to Mas'ud.

Other ethnic groups were marginalised and alienated from circles of power. Hence their resentment.

"There is a very high risk of betrayal at present," in the coalition controlling Kabul, said a diplomat specialising in Afghan affairs.

Leaders in Kabul are aware that the fall of Charasyab and Rishkor on Tuesday and Wednesday could not have occurred without some commanders giving away their positions to the attacking Taleban in exchange for considerations, a practice considered widespread in the internecine Afghan battles.

"Mas'ud did not know how to trust," his enemies say, adding, "now he will sow what he has reaped.

Bangladesh

Iran's President Hashemi-Rafsanjani Continues Visit

BK1210132495 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1200 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] This afternoon the Chittagong-Tehran Joint Chamber of Commerce was opened in the port city of Chittagong. The visiting president of Iran, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, inaugurated the joint chamber by cutting a cake at a simple function held at the traditional Chittagong Club. Addressing the function, the Iranian president said that from now on he will advise traders in his country to substitute imported items from other countries with Bangladeshi goods. He said that the opening of this joint chamber in the port city of Chittagong will encourage the people of Iran and Bangladesh to extend their full cooperation and will help make the ideals of a true spirit a reality.

Earlier in the morning, after his arrival from Dhaka, Mr. Rafsanjani visited the Eastern Refinery. Before returning to Dhaka this afternoon, he is scheduled to visit the Chittagong Export Processing Zone.

Opens Joint Chamber of Commerce

BK1210163895 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangladesh and Iran signed several memoranda of understanding [MOU's] at the International Conference Center in Dhaka this evening. These are aimed at strengthening bilateral relations between the two countries. A tripartite agreement on international roads, railway transport, and transit facilities was also signed between Bangladesh, Iran, and Turkmenistan. The MOU's are on cooperation in the energy sector; expansion and protection of investments; and cooperation in environment and forests, agriculture, posts and telecommunications, and the cultural, scientific and technological fields.

These MOU's were signed by the concerned ministers and secretaries of Bangladesh, Iran, and Turkmenistan. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and high-level officials of the two countries were present on the occasion.

Visiting Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani has called for coordinated efforts by Muslim countries to achieve economic progress and consolidate the unity of the Islamic community. He was inaugurating the Tehran-Chittagong Joint Chamber of Commerce at a function held at the Chittagong Club in the port city this afternoon. President Rafsanjani said that mutual trust and close cooperation among Muslim countries in the areas of economic development and trade expansion will enable them to compete in the world market. He said Iran always places importance on Islamic countries that are engaged in building and expanding economic cooperation with Muslim countries and added that it is in this spirit that Iran is currently expanding ties with Bangladesh.

President Rafsanjani said the establishment of Tehran-Chittagong Chamber of Commerce will widen the path for implementation of the agreement signed between Iranian and Bangladeshi investors. The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce president presented a golden crest inscribed with Koranic verses to President Rafsanjani.

Earlier, on his way from the airport to Chittagong Club, the special guest paid a visit to the Eastern Refinery at Patenga. In a brief speech given at the refinery, President Rafsanjani said his country will give to Bangladesh all possible assistance required to prepare a feasibility report for a new oil refinery and for its construction. He said Iran can provide large-scale assistance to Bangladesh in the petroleum sector and added that his country will do so with a brotherly attitude. President Rafsanjani toured different sections of the Eastern Refinery.

The Iranian president also visited the export processing zone. Our Chittagong correspondent reports that a hearty welcome was accorded to the Iranian president when he arrived in the commercial capital of the country this morning. A number of welcome arches were erected on the road between the airport and the Chittagong Club. School children and thousands of people welcomed President Rafsanjani by waving Bangladeshi and Iranian flags.

Editorial Applauds Expansion of Ties With China

BK1210124095 Dhaka DAINIK INQILAB in Bengali 5 Oct 95 p 5

[Editorial: "Dhaka-Beijing Friendship"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The messages sent by the prime ministers of Bangladesh and China to each other on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties reflects the deep and excellent relationship existing between the two countries. Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng in a message sent to his Bangladeshi counterpart, Begum Khaleda Zia, conveyed his warm greetings and said that China and Bangladesh have become close neighbors since the establishment of diplomatic relations. He added that the friendship between the two countries is deep and traditional. These friendly relations between the two countries, which is based on the five principles of peaceful coexistence, is expanding. Fruitful exchange and cooperation is continuing between us in the political, economic, trade, scientific, technological, cultural, and other fields. Li Peng in his message specifically said that they are satisfied with the proper development of the China- Bangladesh relationship and added that the Chinese people consider their friendship with the people of Bangladesh as very valuable. He stated: It is the firm policy of the Chinese Government to continue to develop ties between China and Bangladesh. He expressed optimism that this relationship will be further strengthened in the future.

In a similar message sent to Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia conveyed her felicitations and good wishes to him and the Chinese people. In her message, she said: Friendship and cooperation between the two countries have increased considerably since the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries. The prime minister remarked: Our relationship with China has passed the test of time. She expressed optimism that in the future this friendship, understanding, and cooperation for mutual benefit will be gradually strengthened.

China's recognition of the independent and sovereign state of Bangladesh and establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries was essential from a political and economic point of view. The history of the friendship between Bangladesh and China is very old. In the remote past, economic and cultural ties existed between the two countries and there was close contact between the people. Establishment of formal diplomatic ties 20 years ago was merely a continuation of this relationship. Friendship and cooperation between the two countries has increased gradually over the past 20 years. This unobstructed development and expansion of ties has been possible due to the dedication and sincerity of the two countries in pursuing an identical policy.

China is a huge country and a superpower. On the issue of expanding bilateral ties, it never displays pride at being a big country or a superpower. A major aspect of Chinese policy is sovereign equality and a good neighborly attitude. China is totally committed to the policy of development through mutual collaboration. In this regard, there are similarities between the policy of China and that of Bangladesh. There is also a harmonious relation between the policies of two countries on many regional and international issues. It is due to this commitment and identical policies that the relationship and cooperation between the two countries is increasing day-by-day. The sincere cooperation and partnership attitude of China toward the development and progress of Bangladesh has set an example in the field of bilateral relationship and collaboration. In this connection, Chinese assistance and cooperation in various sectors, including the construction of big bridges, extraction of natural resources, development, and in the setting up of power plants needs special mention. The two countries also enjoy excellent trade relations but the trade gap is discernible. The need to overcome this imbalance in the field of import and export trade has already been felt by Bangladesh, which is a victim of the imbalance. Fruitful talks on the issue were held between the two sides when Prime Minister Khaleda Zia paid a visit to China last month. The Chinese authorities agreed to import more goods from Bangladesh. In fact, the expected progress can be achieved after the implementation of this assurance aimed at removing the trade imbalance. We sincerely hope that the friendship and cooperation between these two countries, which has passed the test of time will be further expanded in future.

India

Mukherjee Comments on U.S., Nuclear, UN Issues

BK1310104795 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] New Delhi says it has to step up defense expenditure to meet the threat perception following the proposed transfer of U.S. arms to Pakistan. The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, rejected the U.S. stand that the resumption of sale will not create a security imbalance in the region. He said India also does not share the U.S. view that the resumption of arms sale will not enhance the striking capacity of Pakistan. He asserted that the threat perception following the arms transfer is real and not overexaggerated.

Talking to PTI on the eve of his visit to Cartagena in Colombia for the Nonaligned Summit, the external affairs minister also said Kashmir cannot be a core issue, and India cannot brush aside the Simla Agreement, which envisages resolution of all bilateral issues, including the Kashmir tangle.

Mr. Mukherjee disagreed with the stand of the Group of Seven industrial countries that India's refusal to sign the NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty] poses a potential danger in the region. Mr. Mukherjee said New Delhi has no intention of launching any war and, instead, the G-7 should address Pakistan on the matter. He said, despite a comprehensive test ban treaty to be signed next year, there could be nuclear proliferation without a nuclear test. This is the reason why India has advocated a total elimination of all nuclear weapons within a definite timeframe and a treaty which is not discriminatory.

On the UN Security Council's expansion, Mr. Mukherjee said India is strongly opposed to any ad hoc or piecemeal approach. New Delhi is also not in favor of proposals of permanent membership by rotation or quasi-permanent members.

Official Addresses Pakistan's Afghan 'Interference'

BK1210161595 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] According to latest reports from Afghanistan, gun and rocket fighting is continuing around Kabul. India said that the latest assault on Kabul by the Pakistan-backed Taleban militia marks a dangerous escalation in Islamabad's interference in the internal affairs of Afghanistan. Voicing grave concern over the situation, an External Affairs Ministry spokesman said India, together with like-minded countries in the region, is willing to contribute to the search for peace in the country.

Rao Stresses Self-Reliance in Defense Production

BK1210162495 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The prime minister has stressed the need to put the country's drive on self-reliance in defense production on top gear to meet the situation created into the [as heard] recent developments affecting the region. Addressing the annual combined commanders conference in New Delhi today, Mr. Narasimha Rao said that the efforts by India and several other countries to give a peace orientation to international affairs in the post cold-war scenario have not received very encouraging response. He said areas of regional conflicts and encouragement to proxy wars in certain parts of the world still continue. The prime minister indicated the government may consider allocating more funds for essential defense production areas. Mr. Rao, who also holds the defense portfolio, suggested that the Defense Ministry, the armed forces, and the units producing defense items should interact more to understand each other's requirements.

The minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, and the minister of state for defense production, Mr. Suresh Pachori, were also present.

Minister Announces Plans To Upgrade MiG-21 Planes

BK1110162195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Upgradation of the MiG-21 [word indistinct] fighter aircraft has been approved. It will be fitted with advanced avionics, electronic warfare and armament packages. Disclosing this at the Air Force commanders conference in New Delhi today, the minister of state for defense, Mr. Mallikarjun, said depending on the success of the program, future schedule of upgradation of other MiG versions will be taken up. He said the government will provide necessary funds for meeting both the urgent operational and acquisition requirements of the IAF [Indian Air Force].

Referring to the advanced jet trainer, Mr. Mallikarjun said negotiations for the purchase will begin soon. The prototype of the light combat aircraft is expected to come out before the end of the year.

Report Notes Decline in National Defense Spending

BK0910130895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Institute of Defense Studies and Analyses has noted that there is a fall in the country's defense spending in real terms, while it is steady or going up in other Asian countries. The institute, in its report for 1994-95, has pointed out that in India the ratio of defense spending to the Gross Domestic Product is falling, while in the case of Pakistan and China it remains steady. North Korea tops the list with 25 percent of its GDP earmarked for defense. India ranks 25th in a list of 37 Asian nations.

Expressing concern over the lack of modernization, the study says Pakistan has added 600 main battle tanks, 775 armored personnel carriers, and 185 top of the line combat aircraft to its inventory since 1987.

Proposal Approved To Amend Kashmir Election Law

BK0610155195 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 6 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Jammu and Kashmir Representation of the People's Act is to be amended to provide that an election will not be countermanded in case of death of a candidate. The union cabinet has approved a proposal to amend Section 61 of the Act in this regard. The proposal will be given effect through a bill to be enacted as a President's Act. Briefing newspersons in New Delhi today, the official spokesman said that under the proposal, a recognized political party will be required to nominate another candidate within seven days. The time limit will be reckoned from the date the election commission calls upon any recognized party to nominate another candidate.

Minister Says Kashmir Elections To Be Held 'Soon'

BK1210163695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Twenty-one military attaches belonging to as many foreign missions in Delhi visited Srinagar today and were briefed about the role of Pakistan in spreading terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Army authorities and adviser to the governor, Lieutenant General B.D. Saklani, gave details of atrocities committed on the local people by the terrorists and their supporters from across the border. They were also shown a massive quantity of sophisticated arms and ammunition recovered from the terrorists. The diplomats belong to U.S.A., UK, Russia, Indonesia, Turkey, and other countries.

Meanwhile, a major tragedy was averted in Punch today with the detection of a powerful explosive device planted between the degree college and the higher secondary school. According to police, the explosive device was connected with a torch and kept near the adjoining walls of these two educational institutions by suspected militants. The bomb was later defused. In the valley, three persons, including a militant, have been killed in militancy related incidents since yesterday. Five militants, including a self-styled acting chief of a militant outfit were arrested.

A number of leaders and organizations have condemned the militants attack on Mufti Abdul Ghani Azari, head of the Arabic department in Kashmir University, as an attempt to eliminate the intellectuals in the Kashmir valley. Students of the Kashmir University held protest demonstrations condemning the attack. Militants have seriously injured Professor Azari by firing at him at his residence at Harban in Srinagar.

The home minister has said that elections in Jammu and Kashmir will be held soon despite Pakistan's efforts to disrupt the process. Mr. S.B. Chavan was speaking at a party meeting in Bangalore today. He said the government will not accept any precondition from any quarters for holding the elections.

Article Analyzes Sangh Parivar Motivations

95ASO476C New Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 26 Aug 95 p 4

[Article by Prabhash Joshi: "The Real Mahayagya of the Sangh Parivar"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Sangh Parivar has chosen to keep the Mayawati government in power when it came to choosing between keeping the [Mayawati] government it supported and sharpening hindutva [promotion of Hindu values and culture at all social and political levels of society]. Acting on a reactionary agenda while accounting for all past history, the Sangh Parivar organizations like Vishwa Hindu Parishad [VHP] and the Bajrang Dal had to face some very unpleasant situations during the last Janmashtami (Lord Krishna's birthday) for the decision of their parent organization [probably refers to Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, RSS]. Not only were their volunteers unhappy with their leaders but even the Sadhu-Sants (Ascetic priests) refused to participate in the Mahayagya.

There were such extreme security arrangements in Mathura that even the believers who used to flock to the temples on Janmashtami did not show up. Even the ordinary residents of Mathura stayed away from the temple located at Krishna's birth place. The [spiritual] atmosphere that has made Mathura famous in the saying 'Mathura is different from all three worlds' did not materialize this time during Janmashtami. The traders, who wait for this festival all year, were disappointed. Their income for the whole year was shot.

The believers, sadhu-sants and the traders held the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the Bajrang Dal responsible for the situation. A female activist presented a pair of bangles to the legislator from Mathura, Mr. Saxi Maharaj for turning his back on a fight. Due to this insult, the sadhu-Sants boycotted the Mahayagya. The leaders of both organizations had to suffer through the anger of their activists. They took out their frustrations for the parent organization's high command's decision in their speeches at the ceremonies. It was like throwing water on boiling milk.

The leaders said that they did not have any definite goal for the Karseva (volunteer activity). If they had a program, would anyone be able to stop them! If only five hundred volunteers could topple the giant Babri Masjid walls, what could they not do with all these volunteers in spite of the government's desperate police activities in Mathura! Each volunteer, in times like these, gets the strength of twelve hundred workers. But they had not come to Mathura to destroy the Shahi Idgah. They are not the soldiers who come only to destroy old buildings. However there is the warning to the Muslims that they better hand over the buildings like the Shahi Idgah of Mathura and Gyanvapi Masjid of Kashi [Varanasi] to us for the safety of their coming generations.

However, after this verbal swordfight, the leaders said "what we showed in Ayodhya on sixth December of 92 with shovels will be achieved with the stroke of a pen when New Delhi is governed by a Hindu party. They had no doubt that next year in the elections for Loksabha (Parliament) the Hindu party [Bharatiya Janata Party, BJP] will win. After that they will cancel the legislation passed in ninety one which keeps the condition of the places of worship the same as it was in 1947. The leaders did not explain why they have returned to democratic methods today. However, the Vishnu Mahayagya that was to take place in the Jawaharlal college near the Shahi Idgah was moved approximately two to two and a half Kilometers away mainly because Mayawati government was the first Dalit government in power with their support and they did not want to lose that. If they had insisted on keeping the Mahayagya at the Jawaharlal college for three full days, if they had taken on the Mayawati government and if there was any confrontation between the two, the center [Rao Government] would have dismissed the Mayawati government supported by the BJP. They had come to Mathura for a religious ceremony and not to confront the government. This was a celebration for the lifting of the ban order on the Vishwa Hindu Parishad not to create any mischief.

Knowledgeable people about Hindu custom had already said that no ceremony like the Mahayagya should be undertaken in the four months of the monsoon. During the monsoon season when the gods are resting, no yagya ceremony is undertaken. And in Mathura, there is no tradition of having a serious ceremony like the Vishnu Mahayagya at the time of Janmashtami. However, Vishwa Hindu Parishad and Bajrang dal have always tried to raise the religious temperature during Shivaratri (Birthday of lord Shiva) and on the Shravan Mondays (Tenth month of the Hindu year) in Kashi (Varanasi) and on Janmashtami in Mathura by talking about freeing the Gyanvapi Masjid in Kashi and the Shahi Idgah in Mathura. Their plan was to bring this issue of Kashi-Mathura to a boil in this election year.

That is why the plan for Water ceremony (For Lord Shiva) in Kashi and the Vishnu Mahayagya and a circle tour of Lord Krishna's birth place in Mathura was prepared. Whether the water ceremony in the Shringar Gauri temple, which is just behind the Gyanvapi Masjid, was carried out or not we cannot tell for certain. The leaders of the Parishad claim that the ceremony was completed, while Mayawati government is claiming it was not allowed. The minority, BJP supported, Mayawati government, could not allow the Vishnu Mahayagya on the grounds of Jawaharlal college in Mathura either.

This ground is attached to the Shahi Idgah and after Ayodhya, no government could allow thousands of members of the Sangh Parivar to get together and place the Shahi Idgah in danger. The question was not only of the 1991 law relating to the places of worship. If something happened and if the Mayawati government did not take any steps, then the center would dissolve the government. And if the people came from all over for the Mahayagya and if the Mayawati government took strong steps, then the BJP could not continue its support of the minority government. Therefore Mayawati government made it clear that the Mahayagya could be held outside the three kilometer perimeter only. The leaders of the Parishad were very unhappy that the inaugeration ceremonies had already been done and the gods had been already invoked in the place. Once these ceremonies have taken place, no change can take place. They also said that the collector had verbally agreed to their plans and for religious ceremonies they do not take permissions from the administration anyway. However, as the Yagya people tried to be obstinate, Mayawati transfered the collector and changed the superintendent of Police.

The BJP leaders finally intervened to avoid further controversy. The BJP was not ready to accept the political responsibility for the dissolution of the Mayawati government. BJP believes that it has not collected all the rewards for removing the Mulayam Singh Yadava government and the breaking of the coalition between the Bahujan Samaj Party [BSP] and the Socialist Party and installing the Mayawati government with BJP support. This is a political opportunity for the BJP and it should not allow the Mayawati government to fall for such minor controversy if it wishes to form a coalition with the BSP in Uttar Pradesh in the coming general elections.

The VHP and Bajrang Dal leaders do not agree with the BJP strategy. (One does not sacrifice religion for a political gain.) However the Sangh people do have some effect on them. It was at their insistance that the leaders agreed to move the location of the yagya two to two and a half kilometers away and cancelled the circle tour of the Krishna's birth place.

Hindutva is not a religious concept but a political one. The Sangh Parivar has learned one lesson from Ayodhya. There, in the matter of Babri Masjid, it sacrificed its own government in Uttar Pradesh and three more state governments. BJP felt that on the question of Babri Masjid, it had stirred up such deep emotions within the Hindu community that every one would be in its favour after its destruction. That is why they fought the five state elections of 93 on the same issue and with the slogan 'Today five states, tomorrow the whole nation.'

However, apart from New Delhi it did not win in any other states in 93. In Rajasthan also it did not win a clear majority [as published]. If it formed a government it was due to the extreme political skills of Mr. Bhairon Singh Shekhawat. This election taught the BJP that the destruction of the Babri Masjid has politically gone against the BJP. Matters like Mathura and Kashi can keep Hindutva vote banks in the BJP column but they cannot win the central government at New Delhi without the help from liberal Hindus in the rest of India. Therefore the BJP does want to keep Mathura and Kashi matters warm but it does not want to risk sitting in the opposition ,keeping its vote bank in Mathura and Kashi happy.

That is why the water ceremony program was formed but the stakes were not raised to such a point that the Mayawati government would land in difficulty. In Mathura also the Vishnu Mahayagya and the circle tour programs were announced. Mr. Ashok Singhal visited the site of Jawaharlal College, but did not stay for the Yagya. He left for a trip abroad. The programs were handed over to the minor leaders of VHP and Bajrang Dal because they did not want Mathura to boil over.

Look at the behavior of the Sangh Parivar in Mathura and try to remember what they did from July to December of 92. Kashi and Mathura are not any less important than Ayodhya. In fact there are documents available which prove the destruction of the temple in place of the Gyanvapi Masjid while there were no such documents available in Ayodhya. Mathura's Shahi idgah also has a similar history and there is also an understanding reached in 68 which still continues. It is good that the Sangh Parivar has not created any movement similar to that for Ram Janmabhumi.

The water ceremony of Kashi and the Vishnu Mahayagya of Mathura has consolidated the conservative Hindu vote bank for the Sangh Parivar. It will not allow this vote bank to spoil by keeping both these issues alive. However, it wants the votes of the oppressed and other sections of the society for the BJP. Therefore it wishes the Mayawati government to survive at least till the [1996] elections for parliament. The Mayawati government can be supported if they can reach an understanding with the BSP. They can always call a special state election and form the BJP government after they form the government in New Delhi.

Mrs. Mayawati has taken some very strict steps in Mathura but it is becoming clearer every day that she enjoys wielding power. Compared to other socialist chief ministers, she has been more responsive and responsible. She will not easily let go of power if Mr. Kansi Ram does not force her. Rumours are around that there are differences between her and Mr. Kansi Ram. Mr. Kansi Ram is spending his days in Lucknow just to keep an eye on her. We do not know how much fire is beneath this smoke of rumours.

However, as Mr. V.P. Singh said to both Mr. Kansi Ram and Mrs. Mayawati; their government will not last too long. If the government lasts long their party will lose. If they want to save the party, they will have to give up their lust for power. Mr. Kansi Ram wants to be the balancing force in New Delhi next year. Will the BJP give him the number of seats that he wants? The BJP wants to get as many seats from the North as possible. If the Parivar has agreed to blunt its Hindutva sword it is only because it wants the BJP government in New Delhi. They talked about the power of the pen instead of the shovel in Mathura mainly because the Sangh Parivar now wants to first get the power for [implementing] Hindutva.

Iran

Friday Prayer Sermon: U.S. 'Alone' in Sanctions

LD1310113395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The temporary Friday imam of Tehran attributed the establishment of Iran's global status and its growing foreign relations, despite enemy plots, to the clear legitimacy of the Islamic Republic system. Ayatollah Yazdi said: Our country's president's tour of three southeast Asian countries, the warm welcome he received from the people and officials of those countries, and the agreements signed during the tour proved that the world takes no notice of the United States' economic sanctions against Iran, and that Washington has been left alone in that conspiracy.

He cited the willingness of big foreign companies for oil cooperation with Iran and the extensive presence of other countries at Tehran's international fare as other evidence in support of that claim.

He rejected the biased propaganda by the enemies about the judicial system of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He stressed: Iran's judicial system conforms to Islamic precepts. In it the accused enjoys all the necessary rights and facilities.

On the subject of international issues he referred to the Bosnian crisis and the Afghan clashes. He said: The continuing expulsion of Bosnian Muslims from their land was a war crime, and the criminal Serbs should be tried for it. He said the responsibility of Islamic countries to realize the rights of the innocent people of Bosnia was grave.

He described the continuation of war and clashes in Afghanistan as regrettable. He expressed the hope that the warring sides will resolve their differences through talks, and that the Muslim people of Afghanistan will see calm and construction in their country after many years.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the death of Her Holiness Fatima, peace be upon her, the great lady of Islam, the temporary Friday imam of Tehran devoted most of the first sermon to describing the special characteristics and short but fruitful life of her holiness. He said it was the best model for women in all ages.

Rafsanjani Views U.S. Sanctions, Nuclear Issue

LD1210204195 Tehran IRNA in English
2010 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, Bangladesh, Oct. 12, IRNA — Iran's President Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said in an interview here today that Washington's economic sanctions against Iran had fallen short of meeting U.S. expectations.

He said the fact that no one country had heeded the U.S. instigations in that respect was a set back to the American administration. The sanctions, he said, had only served to deprive the United States of potential trade profits with Iran.

Asked to comment on the current status of Iran's nuclear agreement with Beijing, he said the agreement between the two countries continued to remain valid and that Iran was negotiating with Chinese contractors only a propostion about the site of the project.

He said in response to another question that he looked forward to seeing the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) with a membership of 50 Islamic countries, be represented at the U.N. Security Council which would ensure their collective interests.

Asked again to comment on the death sentence for British writer Salman Rushdie, he said the decree was issued by the late Imam Khomeyni, the supreme jurisprudent, and was jurisdictionally consistent with the laws of Islam, and that it was irrevocable, adding that the Government of Islamic Republic of Iran had no plans for enforcing the fatwa.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani commented that the Western governments, and especially Britain, would do better not to raise any further ballyhoo on that story.

On the situation in Kashmir, he said Iran believed that the problems in Kashmir could be solved by negotiation.

Asked to comment on a peace agreement with Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Serbs he said that the agreement had been signed, and added that Iran looked forward to seeing Bosnia-Herzegovina maintain her territorial integrity. In the meanwhile, he said, Iran would uphold the ultimate decision of the Bosnian Government.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani was also asked for his role, if any, in relation to discrepancies between India and Bangladesh in response to which he said that Bangladesh had called on Iran's mediation for solving that problem, and added that in light of the good relations between Iran and India the Islamic Republic would take every possible effort so that, hopefully, the problem of farmers in Bangladesh would be solved.

The Iranian president said Dhaka had plans to build an additional unit of the oil refinery in Chittagong port with a daily capacity of 60,000 barrels, in which project, Iran would invest pursuant to an agreement between the chambers of commerce of Iran and Bangladesh. he said Iran had undertaken to supply oil for the projected oil refinery in Chittagong.

Minister Larijani Addresses Nuclear Issues

JN1210184595 London AL-WASAT in Arabic
9-15 Oct 95 pp 20, 21

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Larijani by Zaki Shihab in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Shihab] What does Iran seek to achieve through holding fast to its nuclear program?

[Larijani] While we were planning Iran's future energy needs, within the five-year development plan, we noticed that the current resources will not be sufficient in light of the projected population growth and future needs. Iran's population is expected to reach 100 million after about 20 years. If we continued to consume the same amount of energy, oil will not sufficiently meet our energy requirements. This fact worried us and prompted us to think of exploring other resources. A 100-megawatt capacity nuclear reactor can provide sufficient energy. Therefore, we decided to embark on a program that would secure the future energy needs of our people, depending on oil resources and nuclear energy.

[Shihab] To what extent did Germany yield to U.S. pressures to curb its economic cooperation with Iran?

[Larijani] The Germans did not complete building Bushehr reactor although we settled its costs. It was hoped that the reactors energy would be used by that region's residents. This German reluctance led us to seek another reactor the value of which is estimated at $300 million. China and Russia are dealing with us in a proper manner, thanks be to God.

[Shihab] Does this mean that Russia and China did not yield to the U.S. pressure aiming to cripple the Iranian nuclear program?

[Larijani] Our relationship with Russia and China is very strong, and is not restricted to buying reactors. They encompass cooperation in economic and military fields and will not be affected by U.S. pressures. Russia is still building Bushehr reactor. China is building another reactor. If the Western countries are afraid of our nuclear reactors, then let them provide us with energy. Then, they will know the truth of our intentions. Had the Germans honored their pledge to build Bushehr reactor, they would have succeeded in reassuring the West and allaying their fears. Iran does not need nuclear weapons, because it has conventional weapons that can deter those who think of staging an aggression. We think it is odd for Britain, France, and others to protest against our efforts to acquire weapons. We have documents that prove that the West supplied Iraq with chemical weapons to be used against Iran.

[Shihab] Does Iran intend to produce nuclear weapons?

[Larijani] Iran is entitled to produce nuclear weapons. But the question is: What is the use of this if it is going to increase our obligations and will not ensure security for us?

[Shihab] Do you fear an Israeli nuclear attack?

[Larijani] Neither Israeli nor anybody else can do this, because we have military capabilities that can help us defend our interests and borders. Even the United States will not be able to stage any offensive against us.

[Shihab] What is the status of your relationship with Iraq at the present time?

[Larijani] We believe that our relations with Iraq should be based on good-neighborliness. However, this is not an easy thing, given the nature of the Baghdad regime. Therefore, we are very apprehensive about the unstable conditions there. We believe that our interest lies in achieving stability in that country. At any rate, the latest visit to Tehran by an Iraqi delegation helped bring about some improvement in the relations despite the fact that the Iraqi regime has not changed.

[Shihab] Do you expect your country to dispatch its foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Baghdad soon to bolster the endeavors you referred you?

[Larijani] I do not think there are any hurdles hampering Dr. Velayati's visit to Baghdad. Such a visit could be made at any point.

[Shihab] Do you think the situation in northern Iraq jeopardizes your country's interests?

[Larijani] Whenever there is tension on the borders of any country, its officials are bound to be worried. Tension in northern Iraq, in our opinion, is due to two factors. The first is the fighting among the Kurdish factions themselves. The second is the Turkish military interference in that area and the deployment of the Kurdistan Workers Party fighters there.

[Shihab] To what extent do you oppose the establishment of a Kurdish state in northern Iraq?

[Larijani] I believe that Turkey is the party to be really worried. Iran is on good terms with the Kurds, especially since they have been totally integrated into Iranian society, and we consider them as part of this society. Moreover, they come from Aryan origin, which is close to the Iranian people's origin.

[Shihab] How do you view the peace process in the Middle East?

[Larijani] As far as we are concerned, the current peace process does not constitute a just or successful solution to the Arab- Israeli conflict. We believe that a just solution should be based on equal rights for both the Jewish and Palestinian people. Moreover, the millions of Palestinians who were displaced from their homeland should be compensated. We believe that the current peace process will not restore the rights of the Palestinians and will not solve the problem; on the contrary, it will only postpone the side effects.

[Shihab] Then, in your opinion, what alternative is there to the U.S.-sponsored peace process?

[Larijani] The world has proven that no single power can control its fate, and that the United States, or any other country, is not a power with unlimited influence. The Americans' support for the peace process does not necessarily mean that they are working for peace. We believe that the solution is simple. Israel must withdraw immediately from all the Arab occupied lands in the Golan and southern Lebanon. It should also restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinians. The Lebanese have the right to defend their land.

[Shihab] What about the activities of Hizballah and other Lebanese forces at this stage?

[Larijani] Hizballah fights to expel the Israelis from its land. It is a legitimate Lebanese party and has a military force, as any other Lebanese party. I hope that Lebanon will, one day, have a unified military force and that Hizballah will carry out political activities as any other political party.

[Shihab] What kind of support does Iran now offer to the Palestinian and Lebanese parties and organizations?

[Larijani] Most of it consists of political support from the UN rostrum, through the media, and on the diplomatic level.

[Shihab] Does this not include material support?

[Larijani] In terms of humanitarian assistance, we help our brothers in Lebanon in the sphere of health and voluntary societies. This also applies to some Palestinian factions.

[Shihab] What do you to say to what is taking place in the Gulf region?

[Larijani] We, in the region, are like one family. We seek to establish collective cooperation and coordination in the field of security or economic cooperation. Iraq threatens security in the region.

[Shihab] What about your current relations with the European countries?

[Larijani] Our relations with Europe following the revolution progressed noticeably. Before, 75 percent of our trade exchange had been with the United States while the remaining percentage was with the other countries. Now, 60 percent of this trade exchange is with Europe. However, following the collapse of the Soviet Union, we turned our attention to Asia. Europe is a partner one cannot depend on in the economic field.

[Shihab] Why did your efforts to settle the Afghan issue fail?

[Larijani] What is taking place there is very distressing, because a fraternal people who succeeded in defeating the most arrogant power in this modern age have failed to solve their crisis. There are elements in the area which fish in muddy waters. However, the real cause is the absence of a mature leadership within the ranks of the Afghan mujahidin for settling the crisis. We put to use the good relations we have with all the Afghan parties, and we do not hesitate to call on them to stop fighting and to resort to constructive dialogue. We continue to do our best in this respect, particularly that our country hosts more than two million Afghan refugees.

[Shihab] It is known that former British Prime Minister Edward Heath visited Iran recently. Did he carry a message from the British Government on bilateral relations?

[Larijani] Heath visited us. I personally met with him, and we discussed bilateral relations, I cannot say that he carried a message in the familiar sense of the word. However, he did not come to Iran as a tourist.

[Shihab] But Britain and other EU states clearly said that they do not intend to upgrade diplomatic representation with Tehran unless the fatwa [religious ruling] against British author Salman Rushdie is canceled.

[Larijani] Regarding the Iranian Government's position on the Rushdie affair, we declared that it will not implement or call for implementing the fatwa issued by Ayatollah Khomeyni, whose opinion is respected by Muslims. Rushdie harassed the Muslims, and the best advice for the West is to stay away from Rushdie and people of his ilk.

[Shihab] What is the secret behind the recent slow improvement in Egyptian-Iranian relations?

[Larijani] Egypt is an important country, the country closest to our attitudes. I do not conceal the fact that the Iranian revolution was impressed by the thoughts of Egyptian scholars. I personally read the books of most Egyptian authors. I hope to see our embassy open in Cairo tomorrow.

It is not in the interest of both countries to keep relations at the current level. I hope that President Husni Mubarak will take steps in this direction. We would like to point out that the Iranian minister of Islamic guidance visited Cairo recently.

[Shihab] What about Iran's position on Algerian events?

[Larijani] The Algerian Government, which resorted to violence against its opponents, is to blame, especially since the Islamic Salvation Front was peaceful, and even democratic, at the beginning.

Regrettably, the West cooperated with the Algerian Government to abort the Front's victory in the 1992 general elections. Circumstances in Iran sometimes prompted us to resort to violence but Khomeyni insisted on renouncing it.

[Shihab] But the government of Algerian President Liamine Zeroual accuses you of supporting the Islamic groups in Algeria?

[Larijani] Our brethren in Algeria receive aid from other parties. Iran is definitely not one of these parties. We in Iran are always against the extremist understanding and interpretation of Islam.

I seize this opportunity to point out that some letters written by Ali Belhadj, second-in-command of the Front, in his prison were against Iran and the Shiites. We condemn violence and refuse to resort to it.

[Shihab] Does your moderate tone mean that the time is over when the Revolutionary Guard used to be sent abroad?

[Larijani] We want to see Iran in the next century as an Islamic and modern state.

[Shihab] How do you view the measures to implement the Islamic law in Sudan? What is your assessment of Dr. Hasan al-Turabi's role there?

[Larijani] I met with Dr. al-Turabi last year, and we discussed the situation in Sudan in detail. We found out that there were many points of agreement between us. Our viewpoint in Iran is that any Islamic government should be established on Islamic thought, law, creed, and jurisprudence, and on making a balance between these issues and the requirements of this age.

Perhaps, Dr. al-Turabi finds it difficult to accept the idea of shura [Islamic consultation] we are following in Iran. Moreover, his interpretation of Islamic law is narrower than ours. However, we should acknowledge that each Islamic country has its own circumstances.

[Shihab] We would like to know something about the nature of your cooperation with Sudan?

[Larijani] It is often economic cooperation. We extend economic aid to the Sudanese people and support them in their war in the south.

[Shihab] What kind of support you are extending to the Sudanese people in the southern Sudan war?

[Larijani] We sell them weapons and ammunition.

[Shihab] What about men? It is said that you also supply them with men?

[Larijani] No, because they do not need men. They have enough men.

U.S. Efforts for 'Centers of Discord' Viewed

NC0910222395 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 27 Sep 95 p 16

[Commentary by Heshmat Falahatpisheh: "The United States — Seeking New Flashpoints"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The issue of the sale of $370 million worth of ordnance equipment by the United States to Pakistan has generated a new uproar in south Asia. This agreement, which had been held in abeyance by Bush, is to be implemented now. Though the governments of India and Pakistan do not indicate any kind of apprehension regarding the disruption of the balance of power in south Asia, outside the government apparati the opposition factions in both these countries are protesting against it.

On the one hand, the ruling party in India believes—probably that in order to mitigate the pressure of the opposing factions— that this ordnance sale will not affect the balance of power in south Asia. However factions outside the sphere of power, especially the rightists and nationalists, hold an opinion contradictory to that of the ruling government.

In Islamabad as well, the strongest opposition party, the Muslim League, has protested against the agreement for the government's purchases from the United States. It believes that the party in power is seeking extensive cooperation with the United States, the most important example being a U.S. base in Pakistan which will be able to monitor the difficult terrain in contiguous PRC, Afghanistan, and Kashmir—which is under the control of India.

In any case, the latest Washington-Islamabad cooperation can generate a new rivalry among the sellers, that is the United States and Russia and the buyers, namely India and Pakistan, of military equipment in south Asia. Pranab Mukherjee, the Indian external affairs minister could not conceal his concern despite his facade to the contrary. In his opposition to this latest cooperation between the United States and Pakistan, he claimed that this would culminate in an intensification of the arms race. The specter of the Indo- Pakistan arms race is not a new phenomenon. However after a relative hiatus of a few years, it could push south Asia in the direction of military games reminiscent of the Cold War era.

On the other hand, Russia is facing economic problems and is seeking an outlet in the region for its stockpiles. In the course of the past five years the Soviet Union and subsequently Russia sought to avail of the ensuing vacuum and to replace the United States in Pakistan. However, Pakistan's conservative foreign policy and the more important internal problems of the Soviet Union resulting from its dismemberment (the transitional period and the economic crisis) hindered any extensive cooperation.

Now Russia is seeking to compete with the United States in Asia in the field of military equipment in south Asia and the deputy speaker of the Russian State Duma went to Pakistan with a proposal stating that Russia is willing to provide for Pakistan's defense and ordnance needs. The outcome will be decided during the future visit of the Pakistani prime minister to Moscow.

Under these circumstances it appears that Washington is seeking to create centers of discord in the region so that it can be a hindrance in the path of this government's [Pakistan] stability and cooperation, for its attainment of the new world order.

The Pentagon's cooperation with Pakistan with regard to the Taleban in Afghanistan, even with Zaher Shah, has generated a misunderstanding between Iran and Pakistan. On the other hand, the government factions in Kabul are under siege by the Taleban and are seeking the assistance of the Indians—who have differences with Pakistan on the issue of Kashmir—for neutralizing Islamabad's role.

The ambiguity in this supposition is the aforementioned cooperation between Russia and Pakistan. If they are anxious regarding the developments in Afghanistan (which could end in favor of the Taleban) how are they promising military cooperation to Islamabad? Perhaps the greed of profits accruing from military sales has overpowered their declared foreign policy!

In any case, the artificial crises will delay any regional convergence in the south Asian region. The dissemination of all kinds of reports pertaining to bilateral, trilateral cooperation etc., within the framework of the new regional order in south Asia has spurred Washington into action. For example, the diverting of New Delhi's attention from rivalry with Pakistan could result in a greater delay in the cooperation with the powerful south and southeast Asian (PRC) pole.

U.S. Said Failing To Escape 'Self-Made Quagmire'

LD1210162195 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 12 Oct 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] A U.S. Under Secretary of State in Political Affairs Peter Tarnoff, in a speech at the meeting of the U.S. Senate Banking Committee on October 11th, criticized the performance of European government authorities in failing to support Washington's policies against Iran. He said that the United States had asked its allies to ignore the small economic interests they obtain from ties with Iran and undertake a responsible leadership in regards to what he described as Iran's threatening behavior. The U.S. Under Secretary of State also claimed that Iran's policies pose a threat, not only to the U.S. interests but also to the interests of the U.S.'s allies in western Europe and Japan. [passage omitted]

The fact is that the idea of isolating a country which enjoys political and economic significance as well as a strategic, geographical situation at international and regional levels, is basically wrong. Perhaps this comment is not far from reality that the American rulers, impressed by misleading propaganda, have plunged into a self-made quagmire to escape from which, the United States has made repeated mistakes, aggravating this situation for itself. [sentence as heard]

Some informed political sources have hinted at the fact that in the present conditions the U.S. government is under intense pressure of their rivals who use the parliament as a bridge for reaching victory in the next presidential elections.

At any rate whatever the reasons for the U.S.'s current instigations, the U.S. political actors should admit the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran cannot be paralised by sanctions, especially when the United States cannot expect the European countries to be in harmony with the United States, on account of economic rivalries in the world.

It appears that what the U.S. government officials are unable to realize is the fact that the White House should abandon the illusion of becoming an international police and judge. The United States should not expect other countries to follow its policy of exerting pressure on independent countries.

Israel, U.S. Threats Defied; Retaliation Foreseen

NC1210140395 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 3 Oct 95 p 6

[FBIS Translated Text] There is no doubt of the fact that the Washington officials harbor tremendous malice against Islam, the Islamic Revolution, and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Of course this is not unexpected, given the record of U.S. humiliation with regard to Iran.

It is a natural right of every country to choose its own friends and foes as it wishes. However this is a general principle, and one cannot dictate foreign policy principles or the choice of friends and foes to any other country.

This is not a very complicated matter, but the Washington hierarchy are unable to comprehend or properly grasp that in today's world even if countries have extensive relations with the United States—or as the arrogant Americans imagine, that they need the United States—they can still be indifferent and cool to the imperious U.S. attitude and the policies it dictates.

We all saw that no country was willing to take orders from the United States and join the U.S.-imposed embargo against Islamic Iran. On principle, this should have been adequate warning to the Washington administration and should have shown them that they are ignorant of even the ABC's of contemporary politics. They do not realize that if the United States wishes to posture like a superpower and to issue commands once again, it will be totally isolated and not even its own allies will heed its words.

This massive political defeat suffered by the United States should in all fairness be attributed to the Zionist pressure groups who tried to capitalize on Clinton's inexperience and to vent their pent-up hatred against Iran and the Islamic Revolution by using the United States. Of course, the United States also left no stone unturned and did not and does not spare any effort in its hostility to Islamic Iran. However, today Clinton's unwise policy has reached an impasse.

Nowadays, one can clearly see the effects and fallout from the fury and malice of the United States and the

Zionists in the various stances of the mass media of the arrogant powers. Some have gone even a step further and have threatened military action, saying that if this or that is not done, Israel [as published] will carry out such and such a military attack.

Of course, for Clinton and his disillusioned faction, such remarks are mostly for domestic consumption. At least they are useful to a certain extent in defusing emotional pressures and crises. If these claims have any vestige of truth in them, then the answer is clear: If that happens, we will smash the teeth of the United States and Israel. And as we all know, if such a day were to come, there is no doubt that we will do so.

Fortunately, the United States and Israel have so many enemies that if the situation became serious, they also would welcome an opportunity to strike at the United States and Israel.

This is not a mere threat, but a statement of a fact that only the stupidity of the Zionists can set in motion. The Islamic Revolution and the international Islamic movement all over the world have numerous selfless devotees who are awaiting the day when they can make things difficult for the United States and the Zionists; when they can threaten the interests of the United States and the Zionists in every possible place, even in the most peaceful part of the world where the enemy would never ever expect it. Who knows, this may well prove to be the best opportunity to settle the issue of Israel once and for all.

Paper Views Israeli Air Force Chief's Comments

NC1210104795 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Oct 95 p 2

[Editorial: "Beware Do Not Stir Up A Hornet's Nest"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel is by nature an aggressor, expansionist entity. The Israeli officials do not deny this; off and on, they blatantly announce their aggressive policy in stark violation of international rules and regulations.

The latest such statement was made by the would-be Israeli air force chief, General Eytan Ben Elyhau who, yesterday, said, "We can punish states which are not necessarily on the borders." Such a statement stems from the aggressive nature of the Israeli regime. Foolishly enough, Israel assumes that it is in a position to punish other countries. Like their master, the bullying United States, Israeli leaders suffer from the superiority complex.

First of all, Israel is neither an international judge nor an international executive body. Hence, to talk of punishing others, stems from the crass folly of Israeli leaders and their utter defiance of international rules and regulations.

One of the main reasons for ceaseless Israeli violation of international law is the indifference—and partiality—of international forums, such as the UN, towards the Israeli crimes and mischiefs. As a result, Israel has been adhering to the law of the jungle since its illegitimate conception.

Israelis should bear in mind that Iran, unlike Iraq, would turn out to be a wasp's next. The repercussion of a slightest damage to Iranian interests would seriously jeopardize the Israeli interests throughout the world. The valorous Iranian soldiers, in the course of the eight-year imposed war, proved that they could withstand even the coalition of almost all world powers supporting a hired agent, Saddam Husayn, frustrating their evil attempts to undermine the Islamic Revolution.

Iran is not only capable of destroying any target deep inside Israel, but it can also endanger Israeli interests in any part of the world if the Israelis commit a blunder by attacking Iran. Israel will cut off its nose to spite its face.

Israeli Radio Reports Reaction to Fatwa on Music

LD0810200095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Persian 1500 GMT 7 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Following the declaration of a fatwa by Ayatollah Khamene'i saying that music spreads corruption, which eventually led to the closure of all music classes in the biggest Iranian cultural center, the Bahman Cultural Center; today, 118 Iranian musicians wrote a letter to Ayatollah Khamene'i personally, showing their reaction and expressing their ideas.

The daily SALAM, which has published parts of the letter, writes: The letter sent to Ayatollah Khamene'i by 118 musicians is a warning against a downfall in the quality of music, which should be regarded as an authentic and serious art form.

While expressing their disagreement with the spread of music colleges, the musicians have stressed that music, as a skill, is a social need which should be protected and promoted. They added: Despite the fact that there are thousands and thousands of players, the country is still facing a shortage of players, writers of music, and educated singers.

This is one of the rare occasions that experts have reacted against a fatwa issued by Ayatollah Khamene'i. In the case of music, this is the first time that musicians have written a letter, practically showing their reaction and expressing concern about the fate of this form of art in the face of the recent fatwa. They have requested that a distinction be made between authentic and scientific music, and music for entertainment; so that they are not all treated in the same manner.

Iraq Denies Visas to Reporters To Cover Election

LD1010140495 Tehran IRNA in English 1314 GMT 10 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 10, IRNA — Iraqi Embassy in Tehran is refusing to issue visa for Iranian reporters who want to cover the presidential elections in that country, a morning daily reported Tuesday [10 October].

The Persian language 'SALAM' added that despite the official announcement of the Iraqi Government inviting observers and journalists to monitor and cover the presidential elections, scheduled for October 15, the Iraqi Embassy here refuses to issue visa for the Iranian reporters.

According to SALAM, an application for entry visa submitted by SALAM reporter remains unanswered.

The Iraqi Embassy in reply to repeated inquiry of the paper demanding an explanation has said that the request has been forwarded to the Iranian [as received] Foreign Ministry and granting of a visa is pending confirmation of the Foreign Ministry.

SALAM has submitted the application as an independent newspaper, added the paper.

Baghdad last month announced that some 18,000 international observers are to monitor the process of presidential elections in the country.

TV Criticizes Iraqi Referendum, Doubts Success

LD1110221595 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1935 GMT 11 Oct 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] While the criticism of the Iraqi Government has spread worldwide and its legitimacy is being questioned, a referendum is being held in the country for the first time since a republican government was established in Iraq. It is asking people to vote for the extension of the presidential term. The only candidate in the referendum is the current president, Saddam Husayn, a president who has ruled Iraq continuously for 16 years without referring to a public vote. [passage omitted]

A referendum is being held in Iraq as the country faces complete political isolation and economic sanctions and the people suffer from a shortage of food and medicine. [passage omitted]

Such a situation, which is entirely caused by Saddam Husayn's policies in the past few years, has raised a question as to whether the extension of his presidency would solve any of the existing problems. That is why observers predict that people will not show much enthusiasm for taking part in the referendum.

Saddam is now trying to reply to the criticisms of himself pertaining to his lack of legitimacy by bringing the people of Iraq into the scene. To that end, he has not only ordered a referendum, but he has also invited foreign observers to visit the country and report on it.

Saddam's aim is to display popular support for his government to reduce some of the pressure caused by the political isolation and the calls for political change in Iraq.

But whether he will succeed is a question to which political experts will only give a negative reply, bearing in mind the miserable economic conditions, part of the Iraqi territory being out of the control of the central government of Iraq, and the conditions under which the referendum is being held in the country.

Tehran Reportedly Frees 10 Iraqi Fisherman

NC1210105695 Paris AFP in English 0941 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 12 (AFP)—Iranian authorities have released 10 Iraqi fishermen who were arrested last week for illegally entering Iran's territorial waters in the northern Gulf, a newspaper reported Thursday [12 October].

The Iraqis, who had been arrested and their boat seized last Wednesday off the coast of Genaveh in Bushehr province, were freed on Monday after a local court established that they had crossed the border to "merely catch fish."

They were, however, fined and had their 650-kilogram (215-pound) stock of fish confiscated for entering Iran illegally.

Syrian Minister Signs Economic Agreement

LD0910153295 Tehran IRNA in English 1522 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 9 (IRNA) — The industries ministers of Syria and Iran signed a letter of understanding here on Monday [9 October] aimed at promoting bilateral industrial and economic cooperation.

The MOU [memorandum of understanding] stipulates further use of both countries' potentials and experiences for implementation of various economic and industrial projects, with both sides expressing hope that required infrastructure for expansion of such cooperation would be provided.

In the memorandum, the Iranian side has announced its readiness for contribution to different industrial projects in Syria particularly those concerning the setting up of cement factories and production of construction materials.

The Iranian side also expressed willingness to cooperate in setting up industrial projects such as an oil refinery and petrochemical complex in Syria for which Damascus will announce its requirements and terms through international tenders.

The memorandum also comprises bilateral agreement on cooperation for production of wagons that Syria needs for its railway network.

Iran also voiced readiness for establishment of pharmaceutical factories and auto plants.

The two sides underlined the participation of their economic institutes and factories in each other's international tenders and agreed to provide necessary facilities in this regard.

Italy Said Interested in Expanding Economic Ties

LD0910102595 Tehran IRNA in English
0759 GMT 9 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct 9 (IRNA) — Exploring fresh avenues for cooperation between Iran and Italy was underscored on Sunday [8 October] during ceremonies marking the Italian National Day at the 21st Tehran International Trade Fair.

The ceremonies were held at the permanent fair grounds in the presence of the director general of Iran's Foreign Ministry, the Italian ambassador to Iran and some Italian officials, as well as other domestic and foreign guests.

Italian Ambassador to Tehran Ludovico Ortona noted during the ceremony that the presence of Italy, among the more than 50 countries participating in the fair, is meaningful and qualitative.

Italy ranked second at the Tehran Fair this year in terms of the number of participating companies as well as the area it occupied, which totalled 1,200 square meters to exhibit its commodities.

Ortona pointed out that his country has always participated in the implementation of Iran's infrastructure and industrial projects, most of which have already been completed, adding that more plans are on the table.

He expressed hope that there will be a further expansion of Irano-Italian cooperation under the framework of the Second Five- Year Development Plan (1995-1999).

Referring to the decrease in the bilateral trade balance in the beginning of 1995 compared with last year's figure, the Italian envoy said that this trend is mainly caused by unfavorable economic conditions prevailing worldwide.

Meanwhile, the director general of Iran's Foreign Ministry, 'Ali Ahani said during the ceremonies that in the past months, Irano- Italian ties witnessed positive developments as a result of mutual confidence.

He added that the obstacles restricting bilateral relations were removed by the final settlement of outstanding obligations on one hand and by the increasing political and economic stabilization in Italy on the other.

The Iranian official further said the total value of Iran's exports to Italy during the first four months of 1995 went up by 20.8 percent compared to the corresponding period last year. Moreover, Iran met 11 percent of Italy's oil demand during the same period.

Ahani hoped that bilateral industrial cooperation will develop in various areas and will be enhanced day by day.

The re-establishment of services rendered by Sace, Italy's export insurance institute, a decrease of its rate for Iran as well as connecting small and medium industries of the two countries are among the measures which have been deemed necessary for creating substantial development, he said.

The foreign ministry official then asked that the setting up of the third round of the Iran-Italy Joint Economic Commission be expedited as this provided the best framework for pursuing economic ties.

Finance Minister, PRC Counterpart View Ties

LD1210114795 Tehran IRNA in English
1042 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Oct. 12, IRNA — Minister of Economy and Financial Affairs Morteza Mohammad Khan and Chinese Finance Minister Liu Zhongli Wednesday [11 October] in Washington discussed matters of mutual interest and explored avenues for upgrading bilateral relations in all fields.

The two ministers were in Washington to attend the annual session of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) held October 7-12.

The officials expressed satisfaction over the progress made in the implementation of projects jointly carried out by both the countries.

Underlining the significant role Iran played in the Persian Gulf, Liu Zhongli expressed hope that bilateral economic and financial relations would further upgrade. He also approved Iran's stance in international economic circles.

At the end of the meeting, the two officials expressed hope that agreements reached in the joint ministerial session would be carried out soon.

Kuwait Accused of 'Contradiction' Over Islands

NC0910132095 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
2 Oct 95 p 16

[Political commentary: "Abu Musa Island and Repetitive Claims"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Western and Arab circles occasionally raise the issue of the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf. Perhaps those who do so know that the materialization of these claims is a dream that will never come true.

Every time the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf meet, support for the United Arab Emirates' claims is the constant factor in the concluding statement. At the most recent session the group sought to propound these repetitive claims within a wider organization, that is, the UN General Assembly, so that this demand would be reflected internationally!

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, the foreign minister of the Kuwaiti Government and first deputy prime minister, carried this message to the 50th UN General Assembly session. [passage omitted]

After the allies attacked Iraq and rescued Kuwait some of the Arab littoral countries in the Persian Gulf considered themselves the cherished and guaranteed progeny of the expediencies of the international system. Claims referred to international legal circles can be viewed within this context. This is because these countries have developed a habit of addressing their ineptitude by seeking recourse with their supporters outside the region. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that the UN General Assembly tribune can convey important issues to the rest of the world. But propounding the issue of Abu Musa Island is a ploy to eclipse issues, such as the rights of the Palestinian Muslims amid the silence and collusion of the Arabs; the ambiguous future of the Palestinians; the oppression and poverty of the Iraqi people, who are the victims of the power lust of the politicians and interference by the powers of world arrogance; the continuing and enhanced presence of foreign forces in the Persian Gulf region; and military maneuvers, the most important result of which is to pollute the security and political atmosphere of the region.

The latest sign of the above can be seen in the joint U.S.-Kuwaiti maneuvers. The Kuwaiti Government harps on about regional amity, yet conveys messages to its neighbors, while it leans on foreign military forces. Can Ahmad al-Sabah justify this contradiction in word and deed?

How can governments that have traversed only three decades of political life resort to historical examples to obtain the three Iranian islands?

Daily Says 'Unconditional' Talks With UAE Welcomed

NC1210115795 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
7 Oct 95 pp 2, 15

[Editorial: "Iran Welcomes Unconditional Bilateral Talks With the UAE"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The three Iranian Islands of Abu Musa, and the Greater and Lesser Tonbs have belonged to Iran since time immemorial.

Only for a period of time the British colonial power grabbed the islands from Iran, but when withdrawing from the Persian Gulf and the area east of the Suez in 1971, they returned the islands to Iran.

The fact that Iran settled the status of the islands on December 29, 1971, i.e., only one day before the British withdrawal from the region, shows that Iran did not consider any power other than Great Britain appropriate for negotiations over the status of the three islands. The 1971 document is the final word on the status of the three Iranian islands.

If our brothers at the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have some misunderstanding on Abu Musa, Iran has said repeatedly that it welcomes unconditional bilateral talks in order to settle such misunderstanding.

Until recently UAE officials had not responded to Iran's invitation to bilateral talks. In his recent UN speech, however, the UAE Foreign Minister Rashid Bin-'Abdallah al-Nu'aymi announced his country's readiness for unconditional and direct bilateral negotiations with Iran.

Although Iran welcomes direct unconditional talks, few points must be made clear: Firstly, there is no ambiguity regarding the status of the two Iranian Islands of the Greater and the Lesser Tonbs. The 1971 agreement has categorically made the status of the two islands clear. Secondly, so far as the status of Abu Musa Island is concerned, the basis for negotiations would be the 1971 agreement. Finally, contemporary history has proven that even if the whole world supports an aggressor, like Saddam Husayn, Iran would not compromise on even a single inch of its territory.

The two Persian Gulf wars have already dealt blows of catastrophic proportion to the region. Iran wants peace and stability. It reaches out toward all neighbors to consolidate peace and stability in the region. At the same time Tehran's goodwill should not be misinterpreted by any country. Iran is strong enough to defend every speck of its territory.

*Daily Lists New Prices for Home Appliance Items

95LA0376B Tehran SALAM in Persian 17 Aug 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] In letters to the home appliance production companies, the Protection Organization asked that they implement the new prices that have been set and approved by the committee. Below are the prices of 41 home appliance items.

Line	Description	Unit	Factory Price	Wholesale Price	Retail Price
1.	6-foot Azmayesh refrigerator	Unit	480,000	393,400	529,000
2.	8-foot Azmayesh refrigerator	"	520,000	526,600	573,000
3.	10-foot Azmayesh refrigerator	"	590,000	607,700	650,000
4.	12-foot Azmayesh refrigerator	"	690,000	710,700	732,000
5.	6-foot Azmayesh freezer	"	600,000	618,000	661,000
6.	10-foot Azmayesh freezer	"	700,000	721,000	771,000
7.	12-foot Azmayesh refrigerator-freezer	"	780,000	803,400	859,000
8.	10-foot Dijitali refrigerator-freezer	"	750,000	772,500	826,000
9.	2001 Azmayesh washing machine	"	866,000	892,000	954,000
10.	2002 Azmayesh washing machine	"	952,000	981,000	1,050,000
11.	3000 and 3500 Azmayesh air conditioner	"	305,800	315,000	337,000
12.	4000 and 4500 Azmayesh air conditioner	"	367,300	378,300	405,000
13.	5000 Azmayesh air conditioner	"	401,000	413,000	443,000
14.	6500 Azmayesh air conditioner	"	427,800	441,000	472,000
15.	13-foot Filur refrigerator	"	770,000	793,000	848,000
16.	13-foot Filur refrigerator-freezer	"	850,000	875,000	936,000

Line	Description	Unit	Factory Price	Wholesale Price	Retail Price
17.	14-foot General refrigerator	"	700,000	721,000	771,000
18.	3000 and 3500 model air conditioner	"	305,800	315,000	337,000
19.	4000 and 4500 model air conditioner	"	367,300	378,300	405,000
20.	7000 model air conditioner	"	462,500	476,300	510,000
21.	10-foot refrigerator	"	530,000	545,900	584,000
22.	10-foot freezer	"	640,000	659,200	705,000
23.	12-foot Buzhan refrigerator	"	620,000	628,600	683,000
24.	12-foot Buzhan freezer	"	700,000	721,000	771,000
25.	8-foot Pars refrigerator	"	540,000	556,200	595,000
26.	10-foot Pars refrigerator	"	610,000	628,300	672,000
27.	12-foot Pars refrigerator	"	710,000	731,300	782,000
28.	12-foot Pars freezer	"	820,000	844,600	904,000
29.	24000 one-third horsepower Iran gas air conditioner	"	1,250,000	1,287,500	1,377,500
30.	(One-half horsepower) Iran 18000 gas air conditioner	"	1,200,000	1,236,000	1,322,500
31.	(One-quarter horsepower) 7000 evaporative cooler of all manufacturers	"	462,500	476,400	510,000
32.	(Half-horsepower) 6500 evaporative cooler of all manufacturers	"	428,000	440,850	471,700
33.	(Half-horsepower) 5000 evaporative cooler of all manufacturers	"	401,000	413,000	442,000
34.	(One-third horsepower) 4000 and 4500 evaporative cooler of all manufacturers	"	367,300	378,300	405,000

Line	Description	Unit	Factory Price	Wholesale Price	Retail Price
35.	(One-third horsepower) 3000 and 3500 evaporative cooler of all manufacturers	"	305,800	315,000	337,000
36.	(One-eighth horsepower) 2500 portable air conditioner of all manufacturers	"	234,600	241,650	258,500
37.	(One-eighth horsepower) 1500 portable air conditioner of all manufacturers	"	200,700	206,700	221,200
38.	Movalled 9-foot refrigerator	"	550,000	556,500	606,000
39.	Movalled 12-foot refrigerator-freezer	"	750,000	772,500	795,000
40.	Movalled 3000 and 3500 air conditioner	"	305,800	315,000	337,000
41.	Movalled 4000 and 4500 air conditioner	"	367,300	378,300	405,000

*Median Retail Price of Some Food Items in Tehran

95LA0376C Tehran SALAM in Persian 17 Aug 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] News Service—In the week ending 13 Mordad [4 August], the prices of non-pasteurized yogurt and Iranian cheese increased compared to the previous week, and the prices of pasteurized butter and powdered milk decreased. Eggs were sold at 3,600 rials [R] to R3,900 a carton, which marked a price increase. According to a report by the Economic Statistics Office of the Central Bank, in that week, the prices of various kinds of rice decreased. The prices of various legumes showed minor fluctuations. Grocery stores located in the City Hall-controlled markets sell their various legumes at about R450 to R770 lower than the price of similar goods in the stores throughout the city. Fruit sellers throughout the city offered high quality fresh fruits and vegetables among them the increase in the prices of apples, apricots, plums, nectarines, peaches, grapes, pears, melons, eggplants, and zucchini were significant.

During this week, the price of red meat and also chicken increased. This report adds: In the week under study, the price of non-pasteurized yogurt increased by 2 percent and Iranian cheese by 0.9 percent, and the price of pasteurized butter and powdered milk decreased by 0.4 and 1.1 percent, respectively. The price of eggs increased by 3.3 percent.

Comparative Chart of Average Price of Certain Food Items in the Week Ending on 13/05/1374 [4 August 1995]

Price in rials

Name and Specification of Item	Unit	Government Price	Average Price During the Week			Percentage of price change this week in comparison to:	
			Current	Previous	Similar Previous Month	Previous	Similar Previous Month
1-Dairy Products						0.4	0.4
Non-pasteurized yogurt	Kg		907	889	912	2	-0.7
High-quality Iranian cheese	"		7,267	7,400	7,107	0.9	2.2
Domestic and imported pasteurized butter	"	6,400	16,045	16,107	15,659	-0.4	2.5
(Nini, Faska, Murinaka) powdered milk	Can	270	6,858	6,936	7,050	-1.1	12.7
2-Eggs						3.3	26.7
Eggs (per carton)	About 2 kg		3,748	3,627	2,958	3.3	26.7
3-Rice						-3.8	-4.2
Imported rice (Thailand)	Kg	100	2,804	2,969	3,052	-5.6	-8.1
Imported rice (non-Thailand)	"	100	2,822	4,013	3,841	-4.8	-0.5
Domestic high-quality Sadri rice	"		5,859	5,911	6,104	-0.9	-4
4-Legumes		Price of City Hall markets				-0.3	-8.9
Chickpeas	Kg	4,000	4,447	4,400	4,917	1.1	-9.6
Split peas	"	2,100	4,602	4,590	5,123	0.2	-10.2
Lentils	"	2,650	3,255	3,438	3,568	0.5	-8.8
Kidney beans	"	3,500	2,967	2,973	4,307	-0.2	-7.9
Black-eye peas	"						
White beans	"	2,250	3,017	3,110	3,422	-3	-11.8
Red beans	"	3,500	4,203	4,220	4,437	-0.4	-5.3
5-Fresh fruits						504	203

Price in rials

Red Lebanon-seed apples	Kg						
Yellow Lebanon-seed apples	"						
Golab apples	"	750-1,200	2,044	1,908	1,940	7.1	5.4
Apricots	"	1,000	2,076	1,794	1,680	15.7	23.6
Yellow plums	"	500	1,414	1,220	1,278	7.1	1.9
Dark red peaches and nectarines	"	1,100	2,260	2,083	2,007	8.5	12.6
Cherries	"	1,200	2,024	1,980	1,850	2.2	9.2
Peaches	"	800-900	1,768	1,785	1,288	-1	18.8
Grapes	"	750	1,360	1,295	1,628	5	-17
Pears	"	800	1,837	1,732	1,689	6.1	8.8
Figs	"	900	2,204	2,292	-	-2.8	-
Name and Specification of Item	**Unit**	**Price at City Hall Markets**	**Average Price During the Week**			**Percentage of price change this week in comparison to:**	
			Current	**Previous**	**Similar Previous Month**	**Previous**	**Similar Previous Month**
Melon	Kg	450-650	907	755	-	20.1	-
Cantaloupe	"	400	715	728	938	-1.8	-23.8
Watermelon	"	350	443	447	473	-0.9	-6.3
6-Fresh vegetables						3.5	-16.6
Thin cucumbers	Kg	500	763	737	927	2.5	-17.7
Tomatoes	"	350	543	542	612	0.2	-11.3
Eggplants	"	350-450	742	708	1,042	4.9	-8.7
Zucchini	"	350	583	468	646	24.6	9.8
Potatoes	"	500	818	810	852	1	-4
Onions	"	250	405	417	517	-2.9	-21.7
Green beans	"	650	880	867	1,254	1.5	-29.8
Leaf vegetables	"	300	508	533	565	-4.7	-10.1
7-Red meat						4.3	10.6
Mutton and lamb, with bones	Kg	7,500	9,870	9,458	8,583	4.4	15

Price in rials							
Beef and veal, boneless	"		10,248	9,836	9,659	4.2	6.1
8-Chicken						5.5	14.7
Chicken	Kg	4,000	4,689	4,446	4,089	5.5	14.7
9-Sugar cubes and sugar		Government price				0	0
Sugar cubes	Kg	27.5-1,260	1,265	1,265	1,265	0	0
Sugar	"	27.5-1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	0	0
10-Tea						0	0
Mixed Bahareh tea (500 gram)	Package	2,100	2,100	2,100	2,100	0	0
11-Shortening							
Shortening (4.5 kg tins)	Tins	294-11,600					

Daily Reports on Decrease in Prices of Goods, Cars

95LA0373H Tehran RESALAT in Persian 4 Jul 95 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Deputy director of the Automobile Sellers Union—The selling price of foreign cars has decreased in the past few weeks by 15 percent on the average.**

The Foundation for the Oppressed reduced the price of its motorcycles by 25 percent.

RESALAT Report on the Decrease in Prices of Household Appliances, Foodstuff, Vehicles, and Motorcycles

'Alireza Mika'ili, foodstuff wholesaler: The price of legumes has dropped by 40 percent on the average.

Parviz Karimi, foodstuff seller: At the present, most businessmen buy as much as they need on a daily basis, and no one has the courage to risk keeping mass quantities of goods.

An automobile seller: The selling price of domestic cars has dropped by 25 percent on the average.

At the present, the Iran Vanette Company sells the Mazda 160 pickup for 49.6 million rials [R], whereas on the market, it is sold with license plates for R43.5 million.

Economic Division—In the past few weeks, following the implementation of the new government policy regarding the stabilization of the foreign currency rate and serious supervision by the Government Punishment Organization over the market of goods, the selling price of most goods has dropped. Our correspondent's comparative report on the selling price of household appliances, foodstuff, vehicles, and motorcycles, prepared in various Tehran markets, follows.

Examination of the Level of Decrease in the Price of Food Items

'Alireza Mika'ili, a wholesaler of foodstuff on Mohammadiyyeh Square in Tehran, stating that "the new government decisions regarding the stabilization of the foreign currency rate has caused a recession in the sellers market of all goods and a drop in their prices," said: At the present, the selling price of Iranian rice has dropped on the average by R1,000 per kg, and various foreign rices by R1,000-1,200.

He added: Preventing the export of legumes, too, has resulted in the drop in their prices. For example, the price of a kg of high quality chick peas has decreased from R6,000 to R3,600 and a kg of high quality split peas from R7,000 to R4,200. On the whole, it can be said that the price of legumes has decreased by about 40 percent.

Mika'ili mentioned attention to the issue of production, increase in supply, and the stabilization of the foreign currency rate as the most important factors over the long-term in the decrease in the price of products. Parviz Karimi, another food seller on Mowlavi Square in Tehran, mentioned the implementation of the foreign currency rate stabilization policy as one of the best methods to control prices and said: At the present, most businessmen purchase only as much goods as they need on a daily basis, and no one has the courage to risk keeping mass volumes.

Stating that the "drop in the selling prices of the products of government companies can cause the drop in the price of other goods," he said: If the import of goods, especially essential items, is done at the rate of R3,000 to the dollar, certainly, the selling price of goods will decrease in the future even more.

'Abbas Zamanisefat, another food wholesaler, also mentioned the stabilization of the rate of foreign currency and serious supervision by the Government Punishment Organization as the two basic factors in the drop in prices.

Examination of the Fluctuation in Prices of Vehicles

Haj Seyyed Mahmud Baba'i, manager of the Azadi Automobile Store on 17 Shahrivar Street in Tehran, stated that "the selling price of domestically-manufactured vehicles has dropped on the average by 25 percent with the implementation of the new foreign currency policy," and added: Saypa Factory about a month ago offered a Nissan pickup for immediate delivery at R47.5 million, while the open-market price had reached R50 million. Now a Nissan pickup is offered at R39 million, and still there are no buyers.

He said: At the present, the Iran Vanette Factory offers a Mazda 1600 pickup for $49.6 million, which with taxes and license fees amounts to R50 million. This is while the same vehicle is sold with license plates for R43.5 million, and still there are no customers at this price.

Pointing out that "buyers and sellers of automobiles are in a state of indecision now," Baba'i added: The level of taxes collected by the City Hall and the taxes by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Finance have increased by several times.

Seyyed Morteza Beheshti, the deputy director of the Automobile Sellers Union, stated that "the implementation of the new foreign currency policy has had an effective role in the decrease and control of the prices of goods" and said: The selling price of foreign cars in the past several weeks has on the average decreased by 15 percent and domestic cars by 20 percent.

Examination of Change in Prices of Household Appliances

Mostafa Aqamiri, the manager of Bahar 72 Household Appliances on Jomhuri Street, emphasizing the continuation of the foreign currency rate stabilization policy, said: At the present, the rumors of the drop in the price of the dollar to below R3,000 has caused the increased drop in the price of household appliances, especially foreign appliances on the market.

Ebrahim Taqizadeh-Shirazi, the manger of Japan Electric Sound and Picture Equipment Store on Imam Khomeyni Square, pointed out that "the selling prices of domestically produced sound and picture equipment have decreased due to the supervision of the Government Punishment Organization and pricing, but they are not found in abundance," and added: At the present time, the selling prices of foreign sound and picture equipment have faced a significant recession and decrease due to lack of interest on the part of the people.

He mentioned the new foreign currency policy as a factor in creating peace of mind for the buyers and sellers in transactions and said: If a competitive market is created naturally, there will no longer be a need for supervision by various organizations.

Mehdi Mohyan, a household appliance seller on Amin Hozur Intersection in Tehran, also stated that "at the present, the businessmen in order to generate cash and expedite financial circulation are obliged to sell their goods at the present market price" and added: At the present time, Alish Gas Stove Manufacturing Factory has decreased the price of its five-burner stove from R1.4 million to R1,208,000, but its market price is lower than this amount and on the wholesale level is about R1.15 million. He then emphasized the continuation of the new foreign currency policy for the long term.

Drop in the Price of Motorcycles

'Abbas Delavar, a motorcycle seller on 17 Shahrivar Street in Tehran, mentioned the main cause in the drop in the price of motorcycles on the market as the implementation of the new foreign currency policy and said: In the past four days, the selling price of a Honda 125 motorcycle has decreased by R500,000 on the market.

Stating that "at the present time, the Tizrow Production Company offers a Honda 125 motorcycle for two month delivery at R6.8 million and for immediate delivery at 8.1 million," he said: At the present, the selling price of a Honda 125 motorcycle on the market is R5.75 million, which is about R3 million below the factory price.

Delavar added: At the present, every Shing Fu (Chinese motor) Honda design and Kawasaki 100 "GTO" are sold by the production companies at R5.4 million and R3.6 million, respectively, while their selling price on the market is R4.2 million and R3.3 million, respectively.

It should be pointed out that yesterday, Engineer Ashrafian, the manager of the Metal and Machinery Industries Group of the Foundation for the Oppressed and Self-Sacrificers, announced: In connection with the new government policies, the selling price of various motorcycles produced by the Industries Organization of the Foundation for the Oppressed and Self-Sacrificers (Honda and Yamaha) has decreased by 25 percent.

Comparison of Selling Price of Several Food Items, Vehicles, Motorcycles, and Household Appliances (Unit: Rials)

Comparison of Selling Price of Several Food Items		
Item	**Selling Price Prior to Announcement of New Foreign Currency Decisions**	**Current Selling Price**
High-quality Iranian Tarom rice (per kg)	6,000	4,100
Thailand three-star Golbaghal rice, per kg	3,400	2,200
Thailand Khorusneshan rice, per kg	4,300	2,900
Five-star Pakistani rice, per kg	3,300	2,600
One-liter Turkish liquid cooking oil	5,800	4,400
One-liter Orkideh liquid cooking oil	5,000	4,600
Authentic four-kg Turkish shortening	32,000	26,000
Stallion 1, one-kg tea	28,500	25,000
Half-kg Iranian mixed tea	1,100	1,100
One-kg Iranian mixed tea	2,100	2,100
Tomato paste, average per kg	3,250	2,800
High-quality (commercial) chick peas, per kg	6,000	3,600
High-quality (commercial) split peas, per kg	7,000	4,200
Hand washing powdered detergent, per package	1,200	1,200
Comparison of Selling Price of Several Models of Vehicles		
Vehicle		
0-km Peykan sedan	42,000,000	34,500,000
0-km Nissan pickup	50,000,000	39,000,000
Mazda pickup 1600, 1374 [1995] model	48,000,000	43,200,000
Full-door [as published] 54 Pride	55,000,000	48,000,000
Simple-door [as published] 54 Pride	45,000,000	39,000,000
Peugeot GL 1374 model	75,000,000	67,000,000
Peugeot GMX, metallic color	95,000,000	80,000,000
Two-door Nissan Patrol	100,000,000	80,000,000
Four-door Nissan Patrol	110,000,000	95,000,000
Super-cab Toyota Gallonette	180,000,000	155,000,000
1993 model differential pair one-cabin Mitsubishi	80,000,000	70,000,000
1992 model Pager and four-door V-3000	250,000,000	220,000,000

Comparison of Selling Price of Several Food Items		
Comparison of Selling Price of Several Household Appliances		
Appliance		
5057 model Samsung color television	2,550,000	1,700,000
2192 model Sony color television	4,000,000	3,100,000
2197 model Sony color television	3,300,000	2,600,000
20-inch Gold Star color television	2,500,000	2,000,000
55-model double cassette Aiwa radio and tape recorder	580,000	495,000
60-model double cassette Aiwa radio and tape recorder	680,000	550,000
70-model Aiwa radio and tape recorder	800,000	700,000
72-model Aiwa radio and tape recorder	680,000	660,000
SHP. 711 Sony radio and tape recorder	2,800,000	2,300,000
SHP. 511 Sony radio and tape recorder	2,300,000	1,800,000
SHP. 411 Sony radio and tape recorder	2,050,000	1,600,000
U.S. two-door side-by-side refrigerator	17,000,000	15,000,000
U.S. Hoover two-door refrigerator	12,500,000	10,000,000
8-drawer Bush twin refrigerator and freezer	13,000,000	11,500,000
1300-watt Chinese National electric vacuum cleaner	1,050,000	850,000
1100-watt Chinese National electric vacuum cleaner	950,000	750,000
1400-watt Japanese National electric vacuum cleaner	1,400,000	950,000
1300-watt AIG electric vacuum cleaner	1,200,000	900,000
G20 Japan National meat grinder	500,000	380,000
176-model Japan National three-function fruit juicer	580,000	400,000
Comparison of Selling Price of Several Kinds of Motorcycles		
Type of Motorcycle		
Honda 125 motorcycle	80,000,000 [as published]	5,750,000
Yamaha 125 motorcycle	6,000,000	4,400,000
Chinese Shing Fu Honda-125 design motorcycle	5,400,000	4,200,000
GTO model-100 Kawasaki motorcycle	4,500,000	2,300,000

Daily Presents Results of Product Price Survey

95LA0372B Tehran RESALAT in Persian 31 Jul 95 p 11

[FBIS Translated Text] **Economic Division—According to the results of the survey of 90 items, the prices of 60 items have remained stable, 20 items have decreased in price, and 10 items have had price increases.**

Based on this report, during the weeks ending 26/04/1374 [17 July 1995] and 02/05/1374 [24 July 1995], the prices of goods such as split peas, eggs, soap, toothpaste, iron beams, plaster, and glass increased.

During the same period, items such as chicken, cheese, chick peas, dried fruits, Peykan clutch disc and plate, cement, machine-made carpets, and acrylic paint decreased in price.

This report adds: The price of most consumer items such as sugar cubes and sugar, tea, butter, oil, mutton, beef, legumes, lentils, rice, pasta, cucumbers, tomatoes, vegetables, powdered detergents, dish washing soap, fabrics, and carpeting remained unchanged.

Name of Goods	Week Ending 26/04/1374	Week Ending 02/05/1374	Changes Compared to Previous Week
Units in Rials			
Flour	400-600	400-600	-
Sugar cubes	1,210-1,260	1,210-1,260	-
Sugar	1,100	1,100	-
Chicken	4,550-4,800	4,300-4,750	-250, -500
Eggs	3,500-3,800	3,500-4,000	0, +200
Domestic tea, 500 grams	2,100	2,100	-
Imported cheese, 500 grams	2,450	2,450	-
Varieties domestic cheese	5,500-7,500	5,500-7,000	0, -500
100-gram pasteurized butter	-	-	-
4.5 kg shortening	-	-	-
Mutton	8,500-9,500	8,500-9,500	-
Beef	9,500-11,000	9,500-11,000	-
Sausage	7,000-8,500	7,000-8,500	-
Lunch meat	6,500-8,500	6,500-8,500	-
Kidney beans	3,300-4,300	3,300-4,300	-
Red beans	2,800-3,200	2,800-3,200	-
Split peas	3,300-5,000	4,000-5,000	+700, 0
Chick peas	4,000-4,700	4,000-4,500	0, -200
Lentils	2,400-3,400	2,400-3,400	-
Imported rice	3,000-4,000	3,000-4,000	-
Domestic rice	4,300-6,300	4,300-6,300	-
Pasta	900-1,100	900-1,100	-
Potatoes	500-800	500-700	0, -100
Onions	300-500	250-400	-50, -100

Name of Goods	Week Ending 26/04/1374	Week Ending 02/05/1374	Changes Compared to Previous Week
Cucumbers	500-800	500-800	-
Tomatoes	400-500	400-500	-
Fresh herbs	300-500	300-500	-
Eggplants	800-900	350-500	-450, -400
Watermelon	350-500	350-500	-
Cantaloupes	600-700	400-500	-200, -200
Powdered detergent	900-1,200	900-1,200	-
Dish washing liquid	1,000	1,000	-
80-gram toothpaste	850-1,200	860-1,000	+10, -200
100-sheet tissue paper	1,000	1,000	-
Soap	430-500	450-500	+20, 0
Ball-point pens	200	180	-20
Black pencils	240-250	150-250	-90, 0
Ordinary 100-sheet notebooks	1,900-3,000	1,900-2,800	0, -200
Ordinary 60-sheet notebooks	1,500-1,700	1,500-1,700	-
Ordinary 40-sheet notebooks	980	860-980	-120, 0
70-gram printing paper	4,800-5,900	4,600-5,700	-200, -200
Chintz	2,000-2,200	2,000-2,200	-
Serge	15,000-38,000	15,000-38,000	-
Tetron	5,000-5,500	5,000-5,500	-
90-cm wide long cloth	1,800-2,000	1,800-2,000	-
School uniforms	7,000-12,000	7,000-12,000	-
Black chador	5,000-13,000	5,000-13,000	-
Peykan tires, each	90,000-130,000	90,000-13,000	-
Motor oil, per liter	1,500	1,500	-
Imported Peykan clutch disc and plate	265,000-315,000	245,000-290,000	-20,000, -25,000
Peykan front windshield	150,000-160,000	150,000-160,000	-
Oil filters	6,000	6,000	-
Iron beam, no. 14	155,000	157,000	+2,000
Iron beam, no. 16	210,000	220,000	+10,000
Iron beam, no. 18	270,000	300,000	+3,000
Dark cement (per bag)	2,700-5,500	2,500-5,000	-200, -500
White cement	7,000-13,000	7,000-13,000	-
Plaster	2,100-2,500	2,200-2,500	+100, 0
Bricks	26,000	26,000	-

Name of Goods	Week Ending 26/04/1374	Week Ending 02/05/1374	Changes Compared to Previous Week
4-M simple pane glass	5,000-7,000	5,500-7,000	+500, 0
Oil paint	4,500-8,200	4,500-9,200	0, +1,000
Acrylic paint	6,500-24,000	6,000-26,000	-500, +2,000
Sa'di tiles	8,000-13,000	8,000-12,000	0, -1,000
Wallpaper	13,000	12,000	-1,000
8-ft Azmayesh refrigerator	600,000	580,000	-20,000
10-ft Arj refrigerator	702,000	702,000	-
12-ft Arj refrigerator	not offered		-
15-ft Arj freezer	not offered		-
12-ft Pars freezer	not offered		-
14-inch black and white Beler television	not offered		-
14-inch black and white Pars television	260,000	260,000	-
20-inch Pars color television	not offered		-
21-inch Pars color television	not offered		-
Azmayesh washing machine	990,000	990,000	-
35-piece melamine dish set	40,000-130,000	40,000-130,000	-
11-kg gas cylinder	45,000	45,000	-
Various types of carpeting	9,000	9,000	-
12-square meter Gilan machine-made carpet	650,000	-	-
12-square meter Ravan Kashan machine-made carpet	650,000	-	-
Yazd Setareh-ye Kavir carpet	850,000-90,000 [as published]	80,000 [as published]-880,000	-50,000, -20,000
Absal 3500 air conditioner	not offered	-	-
Absal 4000 air conditioner	not offered	-	-
Absal 6500 air conditioner	not offered	-	-
Wheat	350	350	0
Barley	290	280	-10
Alfalfa	320	320	0
Bran	170	170	0
Oil cakes	400-450	400-450	0, 0
Maize	550	550	0
Sugar beet pulp	270	280	+10

Pakistan

Indian Charge of Aid to Afghan Taleban Denied

BK1310025995 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 13 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A fierce battle is reportedly raging between the pro-Rabbani forces and the Taleban around the Afghan capital, Kabul. A Defense Ministry spokesman in Kabul said that government forces launched a counterattack on Taleban, now in control of the southern parts of the capital. In the counteroffensive, which began yesterday evening, Taleban positions were shelled by heavy artillery. Taleban supporters, who control the hills near the capital — from where they can attack the center of the city — retaliated with rockets and machine gun fire. Fighting is also reportedly continuing at Maydan Shahr — 35 km west of Kabul — and near Chahar Asiab.

An official spokesman has described as baseless and concocted the statement by an Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman that Pakistan is supporting Taleban in Afghanistan. The spokesman said in Islamabad yesterday that it does not behoove India to talk about peace in strife-torn Afghanistan now, because New Delhi had been turning a blind eye to the 10-year-long foreign occupation of Afghanistan. The spokesman added that there is incontrovertible evidence that Indian Air Force technicians are present at the Bagram Military Base, and that military supplies for the Kabul regime are being delivered to this base. The spokesman said Pakistan has repeatedly called for an end to foreign interference in Afghanistan, so as to help establish durable peace in that country. Pakistan, he added, has supported the plans of the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference to this end.

Taleban Said Important Factor in Afghan Politics

BK1310060895 Islamabad THE NATION in English 13 Oct 95 p 6

[Editorial: "Taleban Offensive"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The long-awaited Taleban offensive has begun. A three-pronged attack on Kabul, from south, west and south west, was launched on Tuesday [10 October] night and some initial successes achieved, including the capture of Chahar Asiab town 23 kilometres south of Kabul. The Taleban were reported to have made a lightning assault taking the Rabbani troops by surprise and marching to the outskirts of the capital, albeit the Kabul regime claims to have stopped their advance and says it is preparing for a counter attack. It is a little too early to make any predictions about the outcome of the "battle for Kabul". The Taleban have apparently done their homework before making another bid for seizing power in Kabul, and should logically be better equipped to fight a sustained battle than they were during their earlier capaign. And the besieged defenders of the capital city, more isolated than ever before, are not known to be in high spirits, not withstanding in flow of arms from foreign sources in particular via chartered flights of Russian origin. However, the Taleban is a loose grouping of student volunteers and not professionally-trained soldiers and, though motivation is deemed to be their strong point, they are vulnerable to superior military tactics. Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, the so called 'military genius' behind the Rabbani regime, was able to outmanoeuvre them in March this year when they thought the fall of Kabul was round the corner. Whether the Taleban succeed in storming their way into Kabul or are pushed back like they were in their earlier attempt, the Taleban factor has turned the balance of power in Afghanistan topsy-turvy. Emerging out of the blue and rallying incredible popular support for what they termed as a crusade for peace and disarming of the warlords, the Taleban have manage cut down to size all other contenders for power in Afghanistan. Regardless of whether they win or lose the latest round in the battle for Kabul, they seem destined to call the shots in Afghan politics.

Ironically enough, Hekmatyar and Dostam have been sidelined at this crucial juncture of power struggle in Afghanistan, and are nowhere in the reckoning while the fate of Kabul hangs in the balance. And, if Rabbani and company are dislodged from their citadel of power, there would be nothing to stop the Taleban from [word indistinct] their [word indistinct] over the entire country. Some reports have suggested that the Taleban have not entirely given up the hope to secure peace without a battle, and while the fighting goes on, negotiations with Rabbani are also being held. Nonetheless, given his reputation, Borhanoddin Rabbani not the type of person who would willingly abdicate power in the larger interest of the country, and the Taleban will have to fight it out with him, if they wish to realise their mission of peace and stability in Afghanistan.

Spokesman on Embassy Attack in Kabul, Compensation

BK1210161395 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has demanded the Kabul regime pay compensation worth over 482.5 [figure as heard] million rupees for the loss of life, and for the damage to the property of Pakistan's Embassy in Kabul in two separate incidents. A formal note to this effect was handed over to Afghan Charge d'Affaires

Nasim Faqiri in Islamabad who was summoned to the Foreign Office this morning.

Briefing the press, a Foreign Office spokesman said that 467.6 million rupees have been demanded as compensation for the damage caused to the embassy and the death of an embassy official on 6 September, while 14.9 million rupees were demanded for the damage caused during the incident in February of last year. The spokesman said that the recent unfortunate incident occurred despite advance warning to the Kabul regime, which failed to provide the necessary security to the Pakistani mission as per diplomatic convention. He said the Kabul regime is responsible for the death of an employee of our mission, serious injuries to the staff, destruction of official records, and extensive damage to personal property.

Asked about the Taleban attack on the Afghan capital, the spokesman said he had received reports that the Kabul regime forces suffered some losses because a large number of its local commanders have switched their allegiance. He said it also reflects the people's frustration with the Kabul administration. He expressed hope that the Afghan groups will devise a power-sharing arrangement, which will allow representation of all ethnic groups.

Spokesman Denies VOA Report of Troops on Alert

BK1210162095 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 12 Oct 95 p 1

[Staff report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, Oct 11 A spokesman of Inter Services Public Relations [ISPR] Wednesday [11 October] categorically denied a report carried by the Voice of America saying that Pakistan troops are on a state of alert or reservists have been called out.

The Voice of America in its 6.30 a.m. news bulletin on Wednesday reported that the Pakistan Armed Forced are on the state of alert. The VOA had further reported that the retired army personnel and the reserved forces are likely to be called in. It had also reported that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto had urged the western countries to contain military ambitions of India during an interview with the Associated Press.

However, the spokesman of ISPR categorically contradicted the report saying that it is totally incorrect and is based upon speculation in the wake of prevailing tensions on the Line of Control.

Minister Repeats Call to Altaf Group for Talks

BK1210113895 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The federal minister for law, justice and parliamentary affairs, Professor N.D. Khan, has again asked Altaf Group to resume negotiations with the government for restoring peace in Karachi in the interest of national security. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad this afternoon, the minister, who heads the government negotiating team, said he has received a letter from Altaf Group negotiating team and is ready to discuss its contents with them at the proposed round of talks.

Altaf Hussain Issues Statements to Muhajir

Warns of Plans for 'Massive Genocide'

BK1310092195 (Internet) MQM NEWS in English 26 Sep 95

[MQM press release]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, September 26, 1995 — Quaid-e-Tehrik [Leader of the Movement] Altaf Hussain has express his most serious concern while revealing that he had been apprised by authoritative sources that the Benazir Zardari's Government was in the process of distributing lethal weapons at a massive scale to various identified sections of the society, e.g., anti-social criminal elements and anti-muhajir forces, with a view to create a civil war in which instantaneous massive genocide of the Muhajir Nation could take place. He said that he had been informed that Benazir Zardari regime had maliciously devised a plan through which all its political opponents in southern Pakistan in the province of Sindh, but particularly in Karachi and Hyderabad were to be exterminated by utilising the services of various groups by giving them huge quantities of weapons of devastating destruction. He said that only four days ago Rueters had published a photograph of apparently civilians who were shown parading the main streets of Karachi openly displaying such lethal weapons when in fact at the same time there was the personal pronouncement of the Interior Minister General Nasirullah Babar, that anyone even carrying arms was liable to be shot on death at sight. Quaid-e-Tehrik questioned how it was possible that with such an executive edict in effect ordinary civilians could publicly march in procession displaying such weapons without government approval?

Quaid-e-Tehrik accordingly appealed to the President of Pakistan, patriotic Generals of the Army and the political leadership of the country to take immediate and urgent steps to prevent the eruption of a vast scale civil war in which essentially immediate Genocide of the Muhajirs will take place with a view to remove the political strength of MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement]. It was already on record that both Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and Interior Minister General Babar had professed in different ways that unless the vote bank of MQM was destroyed, the writ of the Government could not run in this region which was politically opposed to People's Party regime.

Quaid-e-Tehrik reminded the authorities he was appealing to an people of Pakistan that in 1977 when Martial Law was proclaimed its immediate cause was the massive distribution of arms in Lahore to the members and supporters of People's Party for use against the PNA [Pakistan National Alliance] which had seriously challenged its political authority in the country. Quaid-e-Tehrik Altaf Hussain hoped that urgent measures will be taken by all concerned to nip this impending evil in the bud to prevent grave danger to the national vital interest of the country.

Appeals to Muhajir in Government

BK1310091995 (Internet) MQM NEWS in English 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] 12 October, 1995. London, 2.00 p.m — Mr Altaf Hussain, the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] leader, has appealed to Muhajir bureaucrats, writers and intellectuals in the Bhutto Administration not to betray the interest of the Muhajir Nation. He also asked the writers and intellectuals of Muhajir background to play a historic role in the present crisis effecting their people. In any evolution, people of thought play an important role in moulding public opinion. He accordingly, asked the educated classes of the Muhajir people to keep in mind the fundamental interest of their Nation while performing their duties.

He was commenting on certain matters adverted to in the response given by Pakistani Ambassador to the European Parliament, Mr Riaz A Khan, in reply to questions put by the South Asia Committee Chairperson on October 3, 1995, when the European Communities relationship with Pakistan came up for discussion.

The Committee consisted of Ms Anita Pollack, Chairperson, Mr Jim Gilbert, in charge of European Commission's Desk for policy about Pakistan, Mr Robert Evans, British Labour MP, Ms Kestelijan-Sierens, M.E.P France, Liberal Party, Ms Leperre-Verrier, M.E.P, France Radical Party, Mr Martin David, U.K., M.E.P, Labour, Ms Colombo- Svevo, Italy, M.E.P, Christian Democracy Party and Mr Lutige Gunther, Germany, M.E.P, Socialist Party. This meeting was also attended by the representative of MQM Belgium and British Pakistanis who had filed memos of their grievances in the form of petitions to the European Parliament for this particular hearing.

During this hearing, Mr Altaf Hussain informed that many questions were raised with Mr Riaz Khan concerning the human rights situation in Pakistan with particular reference to the problems and killings in Karachi and the injustices being inflicted on the Muhajirs. The Pakistani Ambassador was also particularly asked why the MQM was not allowed to function as a political party by withdrawing all the routine and normal freedoms that it should have in order to operate as such. He was further questioned that victimisation of Opposition political parties was going on and that several members of the Assemblies were in jail and being tortured. Mr Riaz Khan was also particularly asked about the extrajudicial killings of the supporters of the MQM, rapes and incommunicado detention of such people by the Government of Pakistan.

Mr Riaz Khan while responding to these questions candidly admitted that the problem in Sindh and Karachi is of a political nature and should be solved as such. Unlike many statements of the Prime Minister and the Interior Minister of Pakistan, Mr Riaz Khan welcomed the discussions between him [Mr. Altaf Hussain] and Mr Nawaz Sharif and Mr Wali Khan, acknowledged Opposition leaders in Pakistani politics. The Pakistani Ambassador submitted that these parleys were a welcome sign. Mr Khan further admitted that the quota system in Sindh was apparently unjust since it was aimed to assist the otherwise backward Sindhi rural population, but in his opinion, because of this particular priority it was "justified". Mr Altaf Hussain said that this view of the Ambassador, therefore, essentially endorsed the long-standing grievance of the Muhajir Nation, that despite possessing proved merit, they were being denied their otherwise lawful economic and legal rights under the Constitution. If the Government wanted to assist backward areas, [Mr. Altaf Hussain added], it should do so by devising some other scheme and not at the expense of merit of the Muhajirs, which the Ambassador termed as, "Urdu speaking people [who] are highly educated and advanced".

Mr Altaf Hussain, in his remarks, particularly emphasised that in this reply Mr Riaz Khan frankly conceded that [Government] Agencies were definitely involved in the violence in Karachi and elsewhere. This is a welcome yet striking admission of the Government of Pakistan that it is indeed involved in the public that the Muhajir Nation was not being discriminated against. However, Mr Altaf Hussain took strong exception to the view of Mr Riaz Khan when he submitted to the Committee during this hearing that he was the fifth out of the last seven Ambassadors accredited to the Community on behalf of Pakistan and who was of Muhajir origin. The implication of this assertion was presumably that the Muhajir Nation was not being discriminated against by the Government of Pakistan. Mr Altaf Hussain said that such statements were simply designed to please the authorities in Islamabad since in reality they were palpably false and demonstrably untrue. The 22 million Muhajir Nation was facing the most brutal tyranny of the Government of Benazir Bhutto resulting in the Genocide of its people. In services its representation was just 1 percent. Indeed the Ambassador himself had admitted in this very statement that despite merit the Muhajirs were being discriminated against by the Government vis-a-vis the rural population of Sindh because of this "quota system".

Furthermore, in the last 25 years many of the Muhajir bureaucrats who did not toe the line of the authorities had been compulsorily retired or terminated from their regular services under special laws enacted for this purpose. More shockingly, even the constitutionally protected tenure of the judges of superior courts, did not stop the Bhutto Government from adversely affecting those Muhajir judges it wanted to get rid of. Only recently the Chief Justice of the Sindh High Court, Mr Nasir Aslam Zahid was in effect forcibly removed by being transferred to the Shariat Court under Article 203 of the Constitution. Mr Altaf Hussain reminded the people that this very provision of the Constitution had been severely criticised by the Peoples Party in the decade of the 80's since it maintained that it had been introduced into the Constitution by the Martial Law regime of General Ziaul Haq to terrorise the judiciary. Interestingly he was replaced by Mr Memon who was not even a judge of that court at that time and whose close political association with the Peoples Party is a matter of public record. It is, of course, also to be noted that Mr Memon is a Sindhi while Mr Nasir Aslam Zahid was a Muhajir. Similarly, in the Supreme Court, Mr Justice Sajjad Ali Shah, a Sindhi member of the Supreme Court bench, was made to supersede to senior Muhajir judges, namely, Mr Justice Ajmal Mian and Mr Justice Saleem Akhter, and directly appointed as the Chief justice of Pakistan. No wonder, therefore, that Bhutto Government's motivated interference in this manner in judicial appointments has been sharply criticised by the legal fraternity of Pakistan, including the Supreme Court Bar Association. Therefore, plainly Mr Riaz Khan's desperate attempt to show that there was no discrimination in appointments against Muhajirs was totally unfounded, frivolous and false.

Mr Altaf Hussain further said, that the attempt which Mr Riaz Khan was making to show that he had not been discriminated against really only proved the fact that the Bhutto Government was involved in a shameful attempt to fool the world by collecting a battalion of puppet Muhajirs to give them prize posts just to show to the world and the people of Pakistan that they could get such coveted positions by just remaining extra loyal to it. It is for this reason that several Muhajirs had greatly personally benefited by being agreeable to become a part of this window dressing that Benazir Bhutto had organised as a part of her pantomime show for others to see. Realistically, therefore, these few Muhajirs who were occupying such posts were a part of this charade which was a part of this deceitful scheme which Benazir Bhutto had devised in the footsteps of all Imperial rulers of the past. It is a matter of recorded history that from the time of the Roman Empire purchasable "locals" were always selected to accomplish the end of the rulers while dealing with the masses of the very Nations that these identifiable few belonged to.

Mr Altaf Hussain said, that accordingly the verdict of history on the role of such purchased members of the enslaved nations was clear and emphatic. Such people who were asked to play this ugly and nefarious role are traitors to their Nations. He, therefore, appealed to those people of Muhajir origin, who because of their current situation were involved in earning a livelihood to keep in mind that there were millions of their ethnic brethren who were suffering at the hands of present Government. Mr Altaf Hussain, however, added that although his people had greatly suffered in these troubled times he was still hopeful that such opportunists who had decided to desert their Nation in this manner at present for personal reasons would still take the chance and return to their people at the earliest opportunity.

In order to impress the public both on Pakistan and abroad, Benazir Bhutto had desperately enlisted the support of a few mediocre and talent-less individuals of Muhajir origin and presented them as a part of her Government in positions of importance. However, such devious tactics deceive no one. The fact that a few Muhajirs without conscience can stand up with her does not detract from the reality that Benazir Bhutto is out to physically and politically destroy their nation in order to hold on desperately to her institutions of power in Sindh and in the country.

Mr Altaf Hussain accordingly concluded that the Bhutto Government has pushed such pliable and mediocre people who have Muhajir background in the forefront just to conceal its otherwise hideous barbarity on the Muhajir Nation. Such opportunists, therefore, owe their present windfall status to the misery and sufferings of their ethnic brethren.

Such purchased members of the Muhajir Community represent no one but themselves. They have decided to work against the interest of their Nation which is at the moment faced with State terrorism and annihilation.

Mr. Altaf Hussain, therefore, appealed to the bureaucrats, writers and intellectuals of the Muhajir Nation to honestly assess the terrible plight of their people and take constructive steps to alleviate their suffering.

Warns Against Continued Killings

BK1310082395 (Internet) MQM NEWS in English 12 Oct 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London, October 11, 1995 — Quaid-e-Tehrik [Leader of the Movement — Altaf Hussain] in a press release from MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] International Secretariat, London said that Government has reached its peak in committing crime against the humanity. He said that Government is bent upon killing innocent Muhajirs. He said that if this genocide doesn't stop, then people might take necessary actions to defend their lives and honor.

"If people take up arms to defend their lives then Government of Pakistan would be responsible for this", he said.

It his been reported in prominent European news papers that Government has ordered its troops to kill any MQM worker gets arrested. Source of this information is a senior Police Officer who remained wanted to be anonymous.

MQM Said Ready for 'Final Battle' for Survival

BK1210135695 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 12 Oct 95 p 1,6

[FBIS Translated Text] Islamabad (Khabrain correspondent) — The talks between the government and the MQM have become an event of the past as neither side is ready to give up their stubborn attitude. Instead both parties have started organizing themselves to achieve their goals. According to reliable sources the government has decided not to contact the MQM either directly or indirectly to resume talks. Meanwhile, the MQM negotiating team clearly told the government on the last day of the talks that the MQM will never yield to state terrorism or the use of force. While this clear-cut declaration from the MQM, through the government, through its letter, emphasized resuming talks, the government's actual decision was quite the opposite of that. According to the sources, the MQM has flatly refused all contacts to resume talks and these contacts have conveyed these reports to Islamabad. The sources say that the MQM has now decided to fight the final battle for its survival. In this battle the MQM militants will increase their attacks on officials of law enforcement agencies. According to the sources, the government's claims of having disconnected the communication links among the death squads of the MQM are false. These elements are still maintaining communication links despite the ban on pagers and mobile phones and they still go back to their hideouts after carrying out their operations in Karachi. According to sources the final battle between the government and the MQM will take place in December when both sides will have completed all the preparations.

MQM Reportedly To Protest Bhutto Visit to U.S.

BK1210143395 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 12 Oct 95 p 12

[Report by Javed Jaidi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD: MQM-A has planned demonstrations during Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's coming US visit.

The News has learnt that MQM has finalised preparations for a big protest in front of UN building during PM Bhutto's address to General Assembly on October 24. Sources said US chapter of MQM has been directed by Altaf Hussain to show full strength during these demonstrations.

According to plan, MQM workers will demonstrate in different cities but would finally flock in front of UN building for a combined big show. MQM plans to raise voice against government's alleged actions in Sindh metropolitian which it terms as violation of human rights. Sources said MQM has launched a publicity campaign against Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in advance.

However, PML-N which joins MQM-A in black day demonstrations on 19 October, is still undecided over participating in MQM demonstration in US on October 24, Though some hardliners have pressed Nawaz Sharif for permitting his workers to join the demonstration, the majority has opposed the idea in larger national Interests.

The moderate PML-N leaders say the demonstration during PM Bhutto's address may harm Kashmir and other issues of national interest. She will not speak there as PPP [Pakistan People's Party] leader but as Prime Minister of Pakistan", they argue.

Therefore, PML-N leadership is yet to take a final decision whether or not to participate in MQM protest against Benazir Bhutto on her crucial visit. Sources said PML-N moderates have advised Nawaz Sharif not only to stay away from MQM demonstrations in US but also give a second thought to recently formed alliance with MQM.

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